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East Europe Report

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AGRICULTURE TO HOLD EXPORT LEVELS WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY

Budapest MAGYARORSZAG in Hungarian 18 Jan 87 p 25

[Article by Peter Bonyhadi: "Export Is Not An Exception; Agricultural Worries; Export a Necessity"; based on an interview with Dr Bela Csendes, director-in-chief of the Agricultural Economics Research Institute.]

[Text] For the past 2 years agriculture has not been able to maintain the rate of development it got used to earlier. It can participate less and less in creating a foreign trade balance. The number of large agricultural operations which are deficit or have a fund shortage increases year after year.

This is a depressing characterization of a branch which not so long ago was considered an important driving force for the economy. Has an age come to an end?

For an answer we turned to Dr Bela Csendes, director-in-chief of the Agricultural Economics Research Institute.

The Hog Crisis is Over

According to his testimony, if we look only at the problems of the past 2 years, then the question may appear just. But looking at a larger perspective it is not so at all! During the Sixth 5-Year Plan, looking at the average for 5 years, the planned 12 percent growth in production was realized in agriculture. The contribution to national income increased. Since 1984 the payments of the branch into the budget have exceeded the magnitude of supports.

Speaking frankly, even when the Seventh 5-Year Plan was being prepared there were sharper debates as to whether, in the world market situation which had developed, it was worthwhile or necessary to continue the export oriented development of agriculture. As a result of many-sided studies the plan finally prescribed a further increase in agricultural production.

It is true that the world market and domestic problems of agriculture are significant, but one does not see the unfolding of an economic process in the other branches of the economy which would make dispensable the present output of a struggling agriculture in either domestic supply or export, nor would it make further growth dispensable.

If agriculture is to be able to play its strategic role its ability to produce income must increase and the economicalness of its export and the adaptability of agriculture must improve. But the foundations for this can be laid only by longer range foresight and production security. The opinions which from time to time question the role of the branch in economic development shake the confidence of the producers. And this means that the farms let slip even those opportunities which otherwise they might exploit. This is proven, for example, by the drop in pork production which took place recently; this can be traced back to the fact that the producers concluded from the steps of economic guidance that there was no need for so many fattened hogs. Then the budget had to assume a significant extra burden to rekindle the production spirit.

In Times of Drought

So economic guidance has to give the branch long term stability. It must formulate the goals and transmit the tasks of the branch less ambiguously.

For example, the relatively low profitability of agricultural production provides no way for payment of high interest rates. So in most Western European countries the rate of interest on investment credits for agriculture is substantially lower than in other spheres of the economy. Or let us take the effect of weather on production results. For us the economic regulators are adjusted annually to the planned production--in harmony with the general income withdrawal policy. But what happens if the crop is a good bit smaller than planned? The harmful financial consequences of this have a redoubled effect on the producers.

At such times economic policy must take supplementary measures to keep the branch from becoming impotent. Management would be more secure if there were greater foresight in this area.

It is the experience of several decades that those branches develop quickly, that efficiency increases, where profitability is high. Where there is little income efficiency suffers too. It must be recognized that there is also a need for measures to improve profitability if there is to be technical development and the development of organizational methods which provide incentive.

The flexible earnings regulation forms had a favorable effect on the operations and on the people working in them. But there were two problems. Not even the more flexible wage regulation was able to counterbalance the consequences of the unfavorable weather in the drought years. At the same time the restriction on use of incomes reduced the interest of the farms in developing various internal incentive forms. Only one third of the large agricultural operations were capable of increasing profitability.

The development of Hungarian agriculture is export oriented, as is well known. But the solvent markets are full of foodstuffs. The United States and the Common Market are waging a real economic war for the agricultural and foodstuffs markets. Still, however low the world market prices and to whatever extent supply characterizes the international agricultural market, export is a vital question for our country. It gives cause for anxiety, for example, that

the planned quantity of grain was not produced this year, that we can export less.

It is true that at today's prices we cannot make the profit we did earlier. It is also true that a constant saturation has characterized the world market for grain for the last 10 years. But I am not aware that one kilo of the grain intended for export remained on our hands. It should be noted that our export makes no difference in world trade; it comes to only 1-2 percent of the trade.

In any case it is thought provoking that even under the sharper world market conditions the Western European countries were able to significantly increase their agricultural export. Capitalist countries larger and industrially more developed than Hungary vigorously support their agricultural export. And these countries, because of their high industrial and technical level, can or could export other things than foodstuffs.

Speaking frankly, an easier market can still be found in the economically developed countries for Hungarian foodstuffs than for some of our mediocre quality industrial products.

The period of the dynamic development of Hungarian agriculture started in the middle of the 1960's and lasted until the middle of the 1970's. Then, as a result of investments of a magnitude never seen before, there was a swift technical development in agriculture. This developmental wave reached its peak in the foodstuffs industry during the Fifth 5-Year Plan. On the basis of all this it could be justly expected that the economic impetus of these developments would last until the beginning of the 1980's. In the forced situation, when the investment possibilities of the economy became restricted, it could be presumed on the basis of the above that one could cut back on developments in agriculture with relatively the least loss. But the dry years deprived agriculture of the possibility of natural growth.

A Revival Can Be Expected

The situation was made more difficult by the fact that the increase in the size of central withdrawals fell in this period too. As a result of all this the developmental sources waned to an extraordinary degree in the majority of the farms. A large number of the farms--all of them up to those with mediocre natural production conditions--ate up their reserves.

The time has come for a rethinking of development policy. It is reassuring that the Seventh 5-Year Plan was conceived in this spirit. We can regard it as a favorable sign that with the aid of World Bank programs development has begun in grain production, animal raising and the processing of animal products. The changes in the regulator system going into effect in 1987 will increase production spirit also. Hopefully agriculture will again regain its balance and its favorable economic influence will again be felt.

8984

CSO: 2500/165

DETAILS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT ENTERPRISE WITH SOVIETS

Budapest FIGYELO in Hungarian 29 Jan 87 p 17

[Article by Andras Varga: "The First Swallow"]

[Text] Within an unusually short period of time the Soviet Union has made great advances in attracting foreign capital for the establishment of jointly owned enterprises. Negotiations regarding legal and organizational framework, and for the establishment of relationships between enterprises and corporations progressed simultaneously both at the governmental and at the enterprise levels. While Soviet legal provisions governing joint enterprises were in the process of being promulgated early this year, news agencies already reported agreements with both socialist and capitalist firms for the establishment of joint enterprises in the Soviet Union. This rapid progress may be attributed to the parallel course of negotiations.

One of these joint enterprises--the first of its kind--came about as a result of the merger of the Hungarian enterprise Volanpack and the Lithuanian Littara, headquartered in Vilnius. Last December, representatives of the two founding enterprises signed various draft documents in Moscow. These documents are now being reviewed in both countries by the appropriate authorities. Ratification will take place following official approval.

Gyorgy Lazar and Nikolay Ryzhkov, Hungarian and Soviet government leaders respectively, signed a bilateral intergovernmental agreement November 4, 1986, providing an appropriate framework for the establishment and functioning of Hungarian-Soviet joint enterprises. As a result of this general agreement a joint enterprise named Mikromed has also been established. Mikromed differs fundamentally from Littara-Volanpack in the sense that it was established in Esztergom, Hungary, with the participation of [the Hungarian] Medicor and of the Soviet Federal Medical Instrumentation Scientific Research Institute. Accordingly, Mikromed was founded on the basis of the already well known Hungarian legal provisions governing joint enterprises, while Littara-Volanpack predates similar Soviet laws.

The new enterprise that resulted from the productive merger of Volanpack and Littara will be called Soviet-Hungarian Joint Packing Materials and Product Packaging Enterprise, "Littara-Volanpack". Littara is part of the State Committee for Material and Technical Supply [Gossnab].

Initial capital investments amount to 800,000 transferable rubles. Fifty-one percent of this amount is provided by Littara, while 49 percent will be contributed by Volanpack. As its name suggests, the new enterprise has a dual profile. In part it will manufacture packaging materials, in part it will provide packaging services for two Lithuanian factories, particularly for agricultural machinery and for electrical instruments, pursuant to prior agreements. These products are destined primarily to the Soviet market, but also for export to both socialist and capitalist nations. The enterprise has 150 workers. So far the profile of the new enterprise is a scaled down copy of Volanpack.

With the establishment of the new enterprise Volanpack transfers its technology and production experience to the Soviet Union. There is no enterprise of this kind in the Soviet Union. It is for this reason that the emergence of the new joint enterprise satisfies the most important purpose of joint enterprises: it provides a channel for the influx of modern technology. Even today, Soviet manufacturers provide for the in-house packaging of their products. But since packaging takes a secondary or tertiary role in the production process, it often fails to meet appropriate standards. Accordingly, Littara-Volanpack has the potential of introducing a new commercial activity to the Soviet Union.

Since several Hungarian enterprises plan to establish joint enterprises in the Soviet Union, the founding process of this joint enterprise should be of interest. One should preface this statement by what Volanpack President Miklos Vajda has repeatedly emphasized during our conversation. In spite of the absence of settled legal provisions, Soviet negotiating partners both at the enterprise and at the governmental level have assured maximum support of joint enterprises. To date they have indeed provided that support. In the absence of legal provisions governing joint enterprises they held out the prospect for a specific rule applicable to the new joint enterprise. Indications are that in many respects the rule conforms to the legal provisions that have been promulgated since. At this time the details of those legal provisions are not known.

Representatives of the two enterprises agreed last July upon the choice of a joint enterprise form of cooperation, rather than informal cooperation, as had been planned earlier. At that time Volanpack sought permission from the Ministry of Finance to conduct specific negotiations. The permission was granted with the proviso that Volanpack provide detailed information concerning organizational goals, planned levels of initial investment, the choice of headquarters location with supportive reasoning, organizational structure, the conditions of production, available machinery, the accounting system, possible procurements requiring convertible currency, and the procurement of licences and know-how. Following the signing of draft agreements an approval by the Ministry of Foreign Trade will be required because the emerging joint enterprise will be domiciled abroad.

According to economic estimates, during the six months period following start-up this coming July, the gross income of Littara-Volanpack will be one million rubles. In 1988 it will be 2 million, increasing to 5 million rubles by 1990, unless in the meantime the two parties decide to expand their operations to other Soviet republics. The net return is projected at a level of 15-16 percent, permitting a relatively rapid pay-off of the investment. Prices are to be established by the enterprise on the basis of individual rules, with a minimum possible profit of 15 percent.

As a joint enterprise, Littara-Volanpack will enjoy initial tax exemption, according to the settlements reached with the Soviet partners. (Soviet joint enterprise regulations effective January 1 prescribe a 30 percent tax on profits. Any portion of profits that is being reinvested for purposes of expanding and modernizing production, for scientific-technological research, or is being used as enterprise reserve funds is tax exempt.)

Initially, the founders of the Hungarian-Lithuanian joint enterprise have no intention of withdrawing profits. They want to use the initial profits to expand the operations, as well as to place 15 percent of the net profit into a contingency fund until such time that the contingency fund reaches a level of 10 percent of the capital investment. The level of initial capital contributions is sufficient for start-up. (Volanpack contributes technological know-how, machinery, among other items a complete computerized system, and some cash, while Littara provides the land area, an equipped building and cash representing half of its initial investment.) Profits anticipated during the initial years of operation will be reinvested. If these amounts are insufficient to cover possible developmental undertakings, the joint enterprise will have an opportunity to obtain credit in the Soviet Union.

It is known that market mechanisms do not prevail in the Soviet Union with respect to material supplies to enterprises. The state organization Gossnab is in charge of materials distribution. Considering the fact that Littara is one of Gossnab's off-springs, it may be hoped that the material supply of the joint enterprise will prove to be flexible.

Initially, 20 percent of the packaging materials supply, including foil bags, boxes, etc., will be shipped by Volanpack to Vilnius. Later on this task will be assumed by the Budapest office of the joint enterprise, to be opened July 1. Meanwhile Volanpack will be studying the Soviet market to find out what useful product it could obtain in exchange for its shipment. The Budapest subsidiary of the joint enterprise is slated to function initially as a commercial outpost. It will be able to solicit work in Hungary for the Littara-Volanpack joint enterprise. In this sense, to a certain extent, the joint enterprise will also appear as a competitor to Volanpack in the Hungarian market.

Among the unsettled issues of the future we find the transfer of profits to Hungary. Although according to its own statements Volanpack does not initially intend to withdraw its share of profits from the joint enterprise, it would be worthwhile to examine applicable Soviet legal provisions, as they pertain to the future. According to a related MTI report, the foreign party

in a joint enterprise has an opportunity to withdraw its share of profits from the Soviet Union, payable in a currency needed by the foreign party, following payment of applicable profit taxes. In this case the transfer of funds would require the payment of 20 percent dues, unless valid intergovernmental agreements provide otherwise. The transferable amount cannot be greater than the total amount of foreign currency that has been derived from exports, and is accumulated in the joint enterprise account. Just how these provisions apply to Hungarian-Soviet joint enterprises, and within those to Volanpack, is being discussed by the financial authorities of the two nations.

Although not established for the primary purpose of conducting export activities, exporting is within the planned ambit of the joint enterprise. One may draw this conclusion from the fact that Volanpack has a limited liability corporation called Cargopack Hungaria, a joint enterprise with the West German firm Cargopack. This enterprise undertakes packaging assignments both in Hungary and in West Germany. Accordingly, in the event that Littara-Volanpack becomes part of the international activities, it would be important to know in what form it could do so. Could it conduct international operations as an independent exporter-importer? Could the joint enterprise withhold part of the profits paid in foreign currency to pay for its own procurements? The former has in part already become the practice; the latter is not an unfamiliar idea in the Soviet economy. The exact manner in which legal provisions treat this issue is not known due to the fragmentary nature of information available. But Volanpack's Soviet governmental negotiating partners, who have demonstrated far reaching support of the joint enterprise all along, have, for the time being, unofficially held out the prospect of this possibility.

The number of employees at the joint enterprise will be 180. Among them there will be two with permanent Hungarian citizenship: one of the managing directors and one of his assistants. But initially, on a temporary basis, a larger number of training personnel, technologists and brigade leaders will travel to Vilnius. These individuals will be temporarily transferred from the Volanpack staff to the joint enterprise staff. Their salaries will be paid by the joint enterprise pursuant to criteria applicable to long-term travel assignments. The Soviet partners have concurred with the idea that in providing financial incentives to Soviet employees they will consider Volanpack's recommendations based on their domestic experience.

Is Littara-Volanpack going to be an island in the Soviet economy? Certainly so in the beginning, until similar joint enterprises follow from Hungary and from the enterprises of other countries. But the attitude of the Soviet partners suggests that they are supportive of the emergence of entrepreneurial enterprises in the marketplace, and that they would do everything possible to make the activities of Littara-Volanpack successful, by making the joint enterprise a driving force from a certain point of view, rather than a cause for economic tension.

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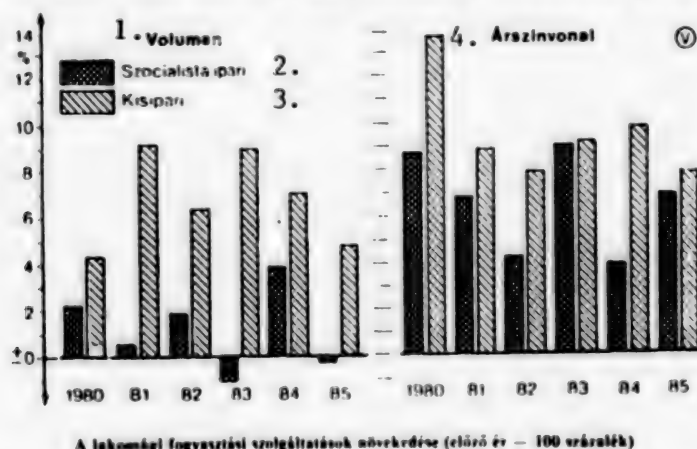
CSO: 2500/183

CHANGING CONSUMER SERVICE MECHANISMS ANALYZED

Budapest FIGYELO in Hungarian 5 Feb 87 p 6

[Unattributed article: "Consumer Services--Slow Transformation"]

[Text] The [Consumer] Service Research Institute queried the Capital City Council as well as county councils concerning their experiences with new functional forms applied with respect to traditional consumer service organizations. In many instances, the answers differed greatly.



Increase in consumer services (previous year = 100 percent)

KEY

1. Volume 2. Socialist Industry 3. Private Manufacture 4. Price

Level Although councils declaredly support the adoption of new operational forms, in practice, dependent on individual councils' attitude, these new forms assume a variety of shapes. In some places the councils had made recommendations

regarding new operational forms applicable to the total service network, while others addressed themselves to certain segments of the network only.

Persuasion and information dissemination are the means widely used by the councils [to spread the word about the new operational forms.] In some places expert advisors point out legal possibilities, in other places they reveal the inherent advantages of the new operational forms to business leaders. Specific assistance provided by councils is seldom tied to financial support of one kind or another.

Based on opinions expressed by councils one may indirectly conclude that those service fields which did not experience significant profitability problems have not at all changed over to the new accounting method.

Managers of enterprises and cooperatives regard the introduction of the new forms as a criticism of their earlier workings. In spite of all this, the introduction [of new forms] had been initiated almost exclusively by central [office] top management. The need to liquidate losses overcame their hostility toward what was new. In the end this appeared to be the simplest way of increasing efficiency.

The Integration Of Small Tradesmen

Flat rate accounting is the most widely used new form of operation. It is being used primarily with respect to the rendering of personal services, such as hairdressers and cosmeticians, but sporadically, some small scale, low capital intensive trades (such as watch repair shops) use it too. Typically, the system had first been introduced in branches [shops/offices] having one or two employees, removed from headquarters. It was anticipated that by using the new form, losses would disappear. Cooperatives have reorganized their previous self-employment system to this form of operation also. Individual counties and cooperatives have so far used this form in several divergent ways: in some places the flat rate accounting form had been introduced in units with low productivity only. In others they went further, based on favorable experiences.

The popularity of flat rate accounting is demonstrated by the fact that it serves as a vehicle to increase cooperative membership. Several cooperatives have admitted the service provider small tradesman as a member; [even though] he will continue working from his own workshop, with his own tools. In this way small tradesmen escape the worries of taxation: they get paid for the use of their tools, and become eligible for a 10 percent tax refund. Integrating the small tradesmen into their membership is important from the cooperatives' viewpoint also. By having the small tradesmen as their members, cooperatives can continue to hold themselves out as consumer service providers, by achieving and maintaining a 51 percent level of consumer service renderings [by virtue of the small tradesmen membership].

Experiences are mixed with respect to the contractual system. In spite of initial problems, this form of operation had been adopted by [only] a few places. [Generally speaking, one could say that] after an initial letting of contracts the trend declined. Gradually even the existing contractual agreements had ceased to exist. In some counties they did not even attempt to

create contractual units. Several councils have indicated that more than one enterprise had announced the existence of organizational units [whose work] could be performed under contract, but there were no takers. This form of operation took hold primarily in drycleaning shops that belong to the state sector. Here and there one finds a few household and communication equipment repair shops [using this form of operation]. Several hairdressers in Budapest conduct their operations under the contractual system. Viewed on a nationwide basis there are only a few contractual operations in other trades.

Only sporadic use is being made of the lease system. Enterprises and cooperatives have abstained from using this system, supposedly in part because by virtue of simplifications in administration they tend to use identical forms, and because there are no specialized service units that could be operated exclusively under the lease system.

Utilization of the expense reimbursement system is also rare. It had been introduced in a few places so as to make service unit workers interested in the achievement of [possible] cost reductions within their individual spheres of duty. The expense reimbursement system sparked debate when it came to expense classifications. It also proved to be detrimental to the quality of service rendered by virtue of [some] irrational cost cuttings.

Things Remained The Same

The service network of the socialist sector was not modified in the framework [of that sector's] organizational development. In practice, the same network exists and operates today as before, but in a different form. Councils unequivocally expect service providers to maintain the functioning of the existing network, and that they satisfy consumer needs.

Uniformly, the councils viewed the introduction of new forms of operation as a change [whose purpose is] improved profitability. This view is also based on the fact that deficit operations and units with below average productivity were the prime targets for the introduction of new forms of operation. The councils also agreed [regarding the fact] that not all units of the service network can be operated under a new form. Only one council believed that any and all delineable units of service providers within the socialist sector should be made to function within some internal enterprise organization.

The councils recognize the pressing problems of profitability experienced by service providers, as well as the resultant exodus [from the service industry]. Nevertheless they do not envision a resolution [of these problems] by means of organizational renewal. A majority of the councils continues to believe that central action and preferential treatment holds the key to the resolution of service provider problems. A minority of the councils feels that making available the internal reserves would help remedy the bad situation in which service providers are today.

Enterprise Or No Enterprise?

A significant change in outlook is required for further progress. Even today, councils do not regard the rendering of services as an enterprise. Quite characteristically, councils do not recognize the fact that the rendering of services is an economic activity that requires capital and live work, and that

one must manage these [assets] in a manner no different from goods that are in limited supply. In many places councils tell service providers that it is their duty to provide services. This view supposedly contributed to the idea that councils endeavour to hold service providers responsible for the delivery of services. Service providers, on the other hand, increasingly reject this view [of their operations]. [As a result,] in the absence of adequate profitability, they then gradually liquidate their operations. (See the graphical illustration.)

The greatest advantage provided by the new forms of operation is that the enterprise or the cooperative can profit from an activity, that clearly proved itself to be a loss operation before. The management and control of various units has become simpler. In some places the number of employees had been reduced, in addition to the successful resolution of [issues pertaining to] business hours that are responsive to needs, and to substitutions. [The new forms] provide a way to obtain financial recognition for overtime work also.

The roots of the unfavorable effects of new forms of operation are the same as those of the advantages. Units operating under the new forms cannot be directed--slowly they remove themselves from the central sphere [of control]. In and of itself this would be no problem. The problem rests in the fact that the consequences of bad business decisions [by units operating under the new forms] must be borne by the parent organization.

It is an even greater problem that enterprises and cooperatives assume only short-term contractual obligations with respect to new forms of operation, so as to enable them to modify dues payment schedules on short notice. In this way the long term commitment is lost, a commitment, which in turn would foster technical development. Failure to make necessary investments, lack of professional development [within trades], and limited possibilities make up the real price consumers must pay for economic advantages.

12995

CSO: 2500/185

RESEARCH VESSELS PRODUCED FOR USSR

Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 24 Feb 87 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Catamarans for the USSR"]

[Text] Four catamarans (two-hulled ships) are being built for the Soviet enterprise Sievmorneftegaz by the Vistula Shipyards in Gdansk. These are unique research units, small geodesic vessels for finding deposits of energy resources on the continental shelves and coastal shallows of the Baltic and northern waters. The chief designer is Mgr Eng Wladyslaw Dziekonski.

The 50-meter long catamarans will carry a 15 man crew plus a research team of about 10. The two steel floats will have two independent power plants designed for use as an automatic system. The aluminum deck house will contain a laboratory with modern electronic measuring and computer equipment.

This equipment will be able to conduct geological studies to a depth of 5 km below the earth's surface. The pulse and plesoseismic ribbons will be able to detect geologic structures typical of oil and gas deposits. This information will then be used to construct maps of the underwater mineral resources.

Specialists consider the Gdansk catamarans a unique generation of specialized ships. They believe these are the first such two-hulled ships for research in the world.

The shipyards have already delivered the first, Iskatel 2, to the Soviet shipowner. The second has recently been launched and is being outfitted. So far tests have confirmed that a two-hulled construction is a happy solution for seismic research on underwater geologic structures.

13021

CSO: 2600/456

POWER EQUIPMENT EXPORT TO PRC

Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 24 Feb 87 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Prospects for Exports of Power Equipment"]

[Text] A delegation of Chinese power industry representative lead by Zhang Fengxiang, deputy minister of water resources and power, is now in Poland. The delegation includes directors of a number of power regions and foreign trade representatives. Their talks concern shipments of energy equipment to the PRC.

The history of Polish-Chinese cooperation in this area began in 1959, when we shipped two 250 MW turbines to the PRC. In 1966 a contract was signed for shipment of two complete 125 MW energy units, which are in service even today.

Last November the Elektrim Foreign Trade Enterprise signed a contract to ship two 1,025 ton/hour steam boilers for 300 MW units in Taiyuan in Shansi province. The total value of the contract is 187 million Swiss Francs. The shipments will begin in the second half of this year, and assembly will be supervised by Polish specialists.

Elektrim will also ship other equipment for this power plant, including control systems and water pumps.

The current talks concern the sales of two complete 300 MW energy units for a power plant in Shalinyzi, which is also in Shansi province. As Ryszard Popowicz, deputy director of Elektrim told RZECZPOSPOLITA, all indications are that the negotiations will lead to the signing of a contract in April 1987.

The PRC is becoming one of our main export markets for the energy equipment industry. In addition to complete units, Elektrim is also supplying transformers (a contract for 22 million Swiss Francs signed near the end of last year). It is also possible that we will be able to sell other equipment.

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CSO: 2600/456

COOPERATION PROSPECTS WITH 'PHILIPS' ELECTRONICS FIRM

Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 27 Feb 87 pp 1,2

[Unattributed PAP report: "A Return to Cooperation with Philips"]

[Text] The prospects for cooperation between Polish foreign trade enterprises and industry with the Dutch firm Philips, one of the best known electronics firms, are good. Adrian van der Scheen, the director of the firm's East European operations, said that there is room in Philips's annual imports of about \$13 billion for Poland's shipments and that we could occupy a larger place than to date.

His current visit renews contacts made two years ago when the Dutch firm signed a contract with four Polish foreign trade enterprises: Unitra, Metronex, Universal, and Labimex. At present this same group is considering restructuring our cooperation. Not only the close physical proximity but the close business goals of these firms supports this intention. Previously imports dominated, so we must also increase exports. The greatest opportunities, however, are in production cooperation. This includes calculating equipment, including computers, and common electronics such as televisions, radios, turntables, etc. The Dutch would provide the electronics which are of better quality than ours, and we would supply the precision mechanical parts, of which we can be rightfully proud.

We must wait before the computers or video recorders appear in our homes, but the first steps have been taken. To facilitate further negotiations, Philips will maintain a representative in Poland, whose task it will be to make working contacts with our industry and foreign trade enterprises.

It is worth noting that cooperation with this firm began 50 years ago. In the 1930's the Roza Luksemburg Plant was constructed on a Philips license in Warsaw.

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REPORTS DESCRIBE COMPUTER USE, DEVELOPMENT BARRIERS

Computers in Farming

Gdansk DZIENNIK BALTYCKI in Polish 18 Dec 86 p 2

[Text]

Over the last 3 days representatives of farming enterprises interested in applying computer techniques in their work have participated in a data processing briefing on microcomputers in agriculture at the Helvetius Hotel in Gdansk. The participants had the opportunity of familiarizing themselves with the latest achievements in computer software in agriculture and potential applications of this software at their plants. During technical demonstrations with the latest Spectrum, Schneider, Amstrad, and Commodore computers, individual companies presented programs relating to crop and livestock production, the financial and accounting system of an enterprise, maintenance of permanent records, statistics, and report generation. According to Witold Chrapkowski, head of the microcomputer services division of the Management Consultancy and Training Center in Gdansk, around 180 representatives acting on behalf of farmer associations, state farms, and farm cooperatives attended the briefing despite the scheduling of the event right before the holidays. A similar event is projected for March 1987.

Gdynia Port Computerization

Gdansk DZIENNIK BALTYCKI in Polish 18 Dec 86 p 2

[Text]

The length of the Gdynia container terminal wharves will increase from 600 to 1000 meters in less than a year, creating the possibility of servicing three ships simultaneously. The data processing system in operation until recently to control container traffic has been replaced by a more up-to-date one made by the Italian firm of Olivetti. In addition to the central computer, managers have 12 monitors situated at different points in the terminal with which to find one of several thousand containers. Computers are also to be installed in the cabins of travelling and yard cranes in the future. This will considerably improve the efficiency of the crane operator's work. [Text]

Terminals Produced in Gdansk

Gdansk GLOS WYBRZEZA in Polish 19 Jan 87 pp 1,2

[Commentary: "Production of Computer Terminals Started; When Will the Computers Come out?]

[Text] Even young children know that computers are now in fashion, but not many remember that we went through a computer boom in the 1970s. Polish companies bought expensive Riads, Meras, and Odras and hastily trained data processing specialists. Unfortunately, most of these efforts were in vain. Only a few enterprises are now actually using the costly equipment bought years ago for data processing.

Taking this situation into account, scientists at the Data Processing Institute and the Ship Institute of Gdansk Polytechnic Institute have designed equipment for use in conjunction with computers, especially ones operating in multiple-access systems. This equipment is a computer terminal, designated as the AN-2000, which allows "dialog" with a computer (such as a Mera or Odra), writing new programs, or transmission of data to an already existing program, along with display on the monitor screen of information received from a specific system.

Merely switching on the terminal allows automatic testing of the serviceability of its individual electronic elements. The test results are reported by the terminal in the form of acoustic signals and text on the screen. This permits verification of serviceability or location of faults. The terminal can be connected to both older and newer computers.

A team of electronic engineers and data processing specialists of Gdansk Polytechnic Institute worked to build the prototype AN-2000 terminal. A trial run of 200 terminals was manufactured in 1986 by the Technoservice Student Labor Cooperative. Toward the end of the year, Gdansk Polytechnic Institute signed a contract with the Unitra-Magmor Precision Mechanics Plant in Oliwa for production of the terminal. By now more than 500 of these terminals have come off the conveyor and have already found their way to buyers.

"Our aim," says the deputy director of the plant for economic and commercial affairs, Tomasz Chrosciewicz, "is to make sure that the software generated by our terminals will be fully compatible with the Riad and IBM as well as with the Mera and Odra."

The Gdansk technical school has also signed a contract with GZE Unimor, which is currently getting ready to produce the ANC-4512 8-bit office computer, which can be used in conjunction with the AN-2000 terminal. This plant is also testing the trial run made by Gdansk Polytechnic Institute. All indications are that serial production will begin in 1987.

'Mikrokomputery' Coop Production Barriers

Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 10-11 Jan 87 p 3

[Article by Magda Sowinska: "A Cooperative with Initiative"]

[Text] When the Mikrokomputery Cooperative Limited was established in 1985 by 11 plants interested in the development of computer technology, skeptics predicted that it would not succeed. Who ever heard of state enterprises establishing a cooperative? This had no precedent.

And it is true that life has not been easy for Mikrokomputery, which inauspiciously enough began operation on April Fool's Day. But despite its troubles, the cooperative in 1986 had a sales figure of 2.5 billion zlotys. Until the Mazovia goes into production, the firm is occupying its time selling and assembling sets of equipment while familiarizing itself with the market and acquiring expertise in marketing activities.

An attempt to find an answer to the question of what is making life difficult for Mikrokomputery was made at a meeting of the members of the cooperative and personnel of the industry division of the Warsaw PZPR Committee, which has been following the fortunes of this initiative from the outset.

The example of the Mikrokomputery Cooperative reveals certain inadequacies of the current financing system and certain legal solutions. These barriers should be broken down to make the way smoother for the next cooperatives to be set up.

Barriers

The Ministry of Finance

The activities of the cooperative involve assembly and commissioning of microcomputer systems, along with preparation of user software. This entails considerable investment expense for technical outfitting of production, equipment, and modification of existing buildings and construction of new ones. The cooperative could have concentrated this money in the form of a development fund, but it has been burdened with a 65-percent income tax from the beginning. Consequently, there is only a negligible possibility of accumulating a development fund of suitable size.

Applications to the Ministry of Finance for exemption from the income tax in 1985 and 1986 were turned down. In contrast, Polish emigre firms are exempt from payment of this tax for the first 3 years of operation.

The Bank

The partners manufacture components of the Mazovia system and sell them to the cooperative. Hence the subassemblies must be paid for before money is received from sale of the finished products. The cooperative must use bank credit for this purpose, inasmuch as money is not collected for a system until it has been assembled, commissioned, and delivered to a customer. This process can take more than a month, and on occasion the assembly cycle is

extended even further because individual partners fail to ship the elements they make on a regular basis.

The credit currently received is too little for proper operation of the firm, and under current regulations it is not possible to obtain approval for more. Mikrokomputery receives credit in the amount of 150 to 200 million z'otys but needs around 1 billion.

The Ministry of Foreign Trade

Manufacture of professional microcomputers is impossible without imports of electronic subassemblies, inasmuch as Polish industry does not produce such elements either in suitable quantities or of the required quality. The government subsidies and retained hard currency earnings of the partners have not been enough. The cooperative as such cannot open a retained hard currency earnings allowance account of its own.

Attempts to obtain electronic components by way of barter transaction has run into obstacles. For one thing, the Ministry of Foreign Trade is reluctant to approve such transactions, and for another, the individual foreign trade enterprises have varying powers. One central is authorized to export goods for which subassemblies might be received in exchange, and another to import electronic elements. Coordination takes months.

Representatives of the cooperative see a solution to the problem of hard currency shortage among other things in receipt from the Ministry of Foreign Trade of a blanket approval for barter imports, for example, up to a certain volume in a given year and issue to the cooperative of a permit to buy electronic elements from private-sector suppliers and bypass BOMIS.

The Mikrokomputery Cooperative has again solicited a government order, which would make it much easier to start up production of the basic assemblies of the Mazovia and peripherals, if for no other reason that than taxes would be reduced.

The Mazovia Given Its Classification Number

The comrades on the Warsaw Committee are of the opinion that it is worthwhile to invest in the Mazovia. This is a computer of the IBM PC class, and this fact puts it in a good starting position. Industry in the capital would thus be more able to assist in developing production of the computer, but there are many questions connected with the activities of the cooperative that remain to be resolved by the central authorities.

A visit to Mikrokomputery toward the end of December 1986 elicited the fact that the Mazovia computer had been tested by an international commission of the CEMA countries and had been awarded a quality certificate and classification number as a machine in the unified system. It has been designated the SM 1914, a fact which will definitely make it easier for the cooperative to take its equipment to foreign markets. Discussions are already in progress with potential customers in Czechoslovakia and the USSR.

The Unitra enterprise in Lubartow, the Zatra in Skierniewice, and the Meratronik in Warsaw are joining the cooperative. Meratronik will make measuring equipment suitable for use with the computer.

The end of December was a period of intensive work for Mikrokomputery. Assembly went ahead even on Sunday. By the end of the year, 300 Mazovias had been completed. Orders have already been placed for most of the computers.

Does the cooperative fear competition by other firms? The director of the cooperative, Dr Zbigniew Twardon, says that "competition is essential, because it forces us to be more energetic and to take action promptly, but it is important for all competitors to start from an equal position."

And this is where the trouble lies. The Mikrokomputery Cooperative is the first enterprise of its kind in Poland, and like any innovation it is finding it hard to make headway, in that it is running into a number of formal barriers. Do new initiatives always have to run up against a wall of impossibility?

'Mazowia' PC Described, Compared to IBM

Warsaw PRZEGLAD TYGODNIOWY in Polish No 41, 12 Oct 86 pp 1,14

[Excerpt from article by Jan Ruranski: "The Mazowia is not an Orphan--For Many Reasons the Mikrokomputery Cooperative Deserves Greater Interest"]

[Excerpts] The youngest member of the Polish data processing family is named Mazowia, and even though it was born less than 2 years ago it may be said to be a child prodigy. It won a gold medal during its first year of life at the most recent Poznan Fair. Consequently, it is no orphan, having many parents, as is the case with successes. There is no irony in this statement; the Mazowia really does have many parents. It is the offspring of a manufacturers' cooperative, something which is entirely new in our industrial and economic landscape.

The concept had its genesis at the Institute of Mathematical Machines in Warsaw 3 years ago. Everyone has felt the need for building a personal computer of the IBM PC class. The computers made by IBM, the world-famous American company, have enjoyed a good reputation for many years. Precisely in the area of personal computers IBM initially allowed itself to be outdistanced by the energetic action of the Apple company in world markets, but soon began to close the gap. Europe rather calmly watched the race between the American giants. Apple started off with the Apple II model, which won wide popularity, gained a foothold in education, and attracted imitators. Among others, the Bulgarian computer industry started out in 1982 with the Pravets-8, which was an Apple II clone. At the beginning of the 1980s, cheaper copies of American computers began to be made in the Far East, Hong Kong, South Korea, and Taiwan. In 1981, IBM demonstrated the first model of its computer, the IBM PC. Unlike Apple, IBM made no secret of the architecture of its computer. On the contrary, it deliberately published technical details, diagrams of the computer and its peripherals. Although this tactic seemed to expose the company to the risk of losses, inasmuch as the number of computers

"compatible" with the IBM, but in reality more or less accurate copies of its design, began to multiply, in the long run it has brought the company success.

Although it was not obvious to all, this success was predicted 3 years ago by engineer Jan Klimowicz, who promoted the concept of building a "Polish IBM." Now that the IBM PC has become more or less the world standard in personal computers, it may be said that he had an intuition. When everyone who needed to be became convinced that a personal computer just like this one should be designed and built in Poland, the Mikrokomputery Cooperative was established. It was joined, among others, by the Era Minicomputer Systems Plant in Warsaw, Polkolor, Mera-Blonie, Mera-Refa in Swiebodzice, and, of course, the Institute of Mathematical Machines of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

A team headed by engineer Krzysztof Dzik is the designer of the Mazowia computer, or more precisely its central processing unit. Guiding me around the Mazowia laboratories at the Institute, he said that "we set ourselves the highest standards. This computer is at a decent world quality level because we have not deviated one inch from the standards we set. It has the technical parameters it should have, and what is most important of all, it is 'Polonized,' from keyboard to monitor to software.

Engineer Dzik cannot find enough words to praise the monitor, which was designed especially for the Mazowia by Polkolor. Modesty keeps him from mentioning his own contribution, but I know from other sources that some of the design features of the Mazowia outshine the prototype even of the IBM PC/XT. Take the monitor controller, for example. Series-produced IBM computers support either a monochrome monitor, a color monitor, or the Hercules graphic card. Each of these options requires the installation of a different printed circuit board inside the computer. The designers of the Mazowia have combined all three options on a single board. What does this mean to the user? In the IBM PC it means that he has either a good text display or good graphics. If he wants both he must have two computers, or one Mazowia.

To needle the engineer, I tell him, "You should sell a license to the Americans."

"The Americans haven't bought one, if it can be put this way, because of historical events. These user needs arose in a different period. If they were to design this computer from scratch today, they would surely apply our solution. On the other hand, I must tell you that Hungary is very seriously considering the possibility of buying this concept from us. I want to use our monitor control package in our latest 16-bit personal computer, the Protor-19, which was exhibited recently at the fair in Brno.

The keyboard for the Mazowia is made by the Mera-Refa plant in Swiebodzice, optionally in a Polish or a Russian version. On one of the sides of each key there is the equivalent in the conventional international IBM "qwerty" keyboard. In addition to the central processing unit, keyboard, and monitor, the Mazowia system includes a printer. Mera-Blonie has adapted the D-100 printer already produced in Poland especially for the needs of the Mazowia. It is mechanically identical to serial printers; only its electronics have

been changed. Specifically, the possibility is provided in it of controlling each pin of the printhead separately. This allows printing of all graphic programs, and the Mazowia has full graphic capabilities.

A few words should be said here about the matter of how many Mazowias will be marketed, where, and for how much. The pace has been a decent one for Polish conditions. The Mikrokomputery cooperative was established toward the end of 1985, and by the end of this year will have produced 500 computers, 300 of which will be put on the market (200 of them will be installed in the plants of the cooperative's members among other things for comprehensive testing). The cooperative has announced that it will turn out 3,000 Mazowias in 1987 and that the ultimate scheduled output is 30,000 a year. The price, not including a hard disk (for which a hard currency contribution is required), runs to around 3 million zlotys. Some Polish emigre firms ask twice as much for a computer of this class. It is no wonder that orders poured in at the Poznan Fair, and not just because of the price. The Mazowia rapidly gained a very good reputation. It passed all standard Polish tests. Its only weakness, its designers acknowledge on the quiet, is that it does not like being transported. Jolts sometimes dislodge integrated circuits from their sockets in the board and they have to be forced in manually after the computer has been installed. Imported sockets obviously do not suffer this deficiency. But the whole point is that the computer is to be built with elements available for zlotys or rubles and not for dollars.

The Mazowia works with a 16-bit Soviet-made microprocessor which is equivalent to the INTEL 8086. The entire electronic system of the computer is built basically with integrated circuits available in our currency region--I say basically because some boards, such as the 8250 circuit or the so-called interface controller, are imported for dollars. It could obviously be made with Polish elements, but this would take too much time and would be too expensive. Unfortunately, neither Poland nor its neighbors can produce hard disk drives of the Winchester type. Dollars must be paid for these devices, and a customer who needs such a storage device must pay several hundred dollars in addition to the cost of the Mazowia in zlotys.

The project going by the name of Mazowia is not just a technical or design success of a group of enthusiasts in several enterprises. It is also an organizational success, for I am unaware of any other similar cooperative in Polish industry operating on similar principles and producing similar results. It would be an exaggeration to say that all of them were in favor of it from the beginning. There was no lack of opponents, but the Mazowia counted among its allies people in the machinebuilding industry and on the Warsaw Committee, something which the creators of the computer courteously refrain from emphasizing today. I believe that for many reasons the Mikrokomputery cooperative is deserving of greater interest, aside from that of the otherwise rather good personal computer.

Computer Use Development Problems

Warsaw PRZEGLAD TYGODNIOWY in Polish No 47, 23 Nov 86 p 14

[Excerpt from article by Adam Jamiolkowski: "Large Problems of Small Computers--It's High Time we Break with the Old Way of Thinking About Computers"]

[Excerpts] The personal computers currently in production have capabilities comparable to, and sometimes greater than, those that can be offered by such machines as the ODRA 1305 or the MERA 400. A relatively "modest" product made by IBM, the IBM XT computer, performs floating point operations (adds numbers containing a decimal point) in 23 microseconds (the MERA 400 does this in less than 19 microseconds) and can have up to 640 kilobytes of operating memory, that is, memory contained in the computer itself and rapidly available (1 kilobyte = 1024 bytes; 1 byte = 8 bits; 1 bit is the smallest unit of information, figuratively speaking a YES or a NO). MERA usually operates with an operating memory of 256 kilobytes. However, the IBM XT has the footprint of a typewriter (500x410x142 centimeters), weighs 17 kilograms, and consumes 130 watts (!) of power.

The first stumbling block in Poland is the lack of any software marketing organization, that is, a commercial user software organization. To be more precise, there is a lack of legal and economic mechanisms promoting organization and development of such a market. State enterprises show no interest whatever (apparently it is profitable to execute firm orders but not to deal in "finished" programs), while private-sector enterprises charge customers downright horrifying prices and the customers have to pay them out of their own pockets.

Private citizens generally obtain software (most often by trade rather than purchase) at computer exchanges and flea markets. There is no copyright protection at all in Poland for programs, the majority of those in circulation being copies brought in from the west in which (sometimes) the language of exposition has been converted to Polish. Any person who has written a program suitable for use by a large number of people has no prospect of marketing it, knowing as he does that after a few copies have been sold the program will start to circulate beyond his control and somebody entirely different will earn money from his program.

It is fairly rare for institutions to buy software. In most cases they use software written by their personnel or "negotiated" by these persons. There is, however, a good black market for such computers as the Spectrum, Commodore, or, as a last resort, the Atari. But the black market cannot perform this function for the IBM PC, if for no other reason than the unavailability of equipment in this category to private users (the least expensive IBM PC configuration costs around 1.2 million zlotys) and the consequent unprofitability of black market transactions. The programs in unofficial circulation cannot compete from the viewpoint of trouble-free and rapid operation; some persons will sell any kind of trash if they can.

Computers are actually only expensive toys without universally available well constructed software. This situation must change if computerization is to yield its social and economic effects. One other factor needs mentioning. In the area of data processing as perhaps in no other, the amateur has available to him a workshop comparable (within certain limits) to that of a professional. All that it takes to write a good program is a personal computer and a good head on one's shoulders. We must not repeat the errors as a result of which talk of fuel conservation did not begin until after burial of an invention by an amateur (or maybe a semiprofessional) in this area, A. Kowalski, an invention older than the automobile in which it is used. The amateur or semiprofessional should not be underestimated, and by no means should he be ignored. This 2 percent using personal computers creatively must be enabled to sell the results of their labor. This should not conflict with the requirement for professional solutions available in the software market.

IBM enjoyed great success because it also marketed a package of user programs for a wide variety of applications when it put the IBM PC on the market. Long before work on the computer itself had been completed, it was possible to obtain data on the operating system to be used on the new computer, to write a program for this computer, and to sell it to IBM. The software that accumulated in this way was generated both in major computer centers and in the private residences of persons owning microcomputers. And this software made success certain. Moreover, there are non-professional people in Poland as well who have successful software marketing transactions (of necessity "untaxed") in the West to their credit. Polish creative technical thought is routinely sold out. Must it always be this way?

There obviously can be no question of non-professionals profiting from the fruits of their labor unless these persons are assured of the possibility of disseminating knowledge. The situation in this area is due among other things to the only too well known immobilization of our publishing activities, which I think would be too tiresome to discuss. Meanwhile, purveyors of a wide variety of photocopies (of horrifying quality) of foreign language publications turn these publications into "bestsellers."

On the other hand, there is no need to go to extremes and make everybody data processing specialists. This would do more harm than good; concentration of resources usually yields better results. At school it is enough to familiarize the students with the principles of computer use and with the running of readymade programs. This is useful to everyone; in a few years even the most unworldly poet will come to appreciate the charm of the "writing machine," which will correct spelling errors itself and will design the graphic layout of finished text, even if the text runs to several pages. But there is no need to go too far. Not everyone needs to know how to program, but those who want to should be enabled to learn programming.

An obstacle to full use of the potential of the increasingly available microcomputer (unfortunately not Polish-made) is the lack of peripheral equipment. Everyone admits that a result in the form of a graph appeals to the imagination more than a table containing long columns of figures. But where is one to get a plotter, a device allowing full utilization of personal computer potential in the area of graphics? Availability for zlotys does not

enter into account; let PEWEX, which has managed to sell Atari equipment for reasonable prices, try to fill this market need. Sales are assured. The market prices of this equipment are far higher than the prices in the West, even when the most extreme black market dollar exchange rate is taken as a basis.

The equipment problem also has deeper roots. There is an increasing variety of systems made by different manufacturers in Poland. This variety may be very well, but are we not too poor for it? In reality it prevents effective exchange of software, and in the future will prevent the creation of generally accessible networks (or make such creation decidedly difficult). It is time to give thought to setting some sort of hardware and software standard, at least for government users (self-respecting amateurs will follow it voluntarily).

Adoption of a hardware standard would also definitely contribute to solution of another problem. It is the same with a computer as with a scientist: the best results are achieved when the computer is allowed to exchange information with others of its kind. Creation of permanent networks is still in the distant future. This is all the more reason for giving serious thought to a Polish modem, a device which allows computers to "talk to each other" over an ordinary telephone network. First of all, there are legal obstacles. Coded information may not be sent over the public telephone network, and this is the kind of information a computer transmits. There is also the problem of standardization. In no country is transmission of arbitrarily encoded signals in the public network allowed, but adoption of a specific standard (coding method) would solve the problem by creating the possibility of monitoring and protecting the telephone network from interference.

It is difficult to gauge the benefit of allowing the use of modems. Take the example of several machine tool factories. It is surely affordable to use computers for record keeping and inventory control (this is already being done in the majority of factories). Connecting these machines to form a permanent network is a costly extravagance. It is enough for them to communicate once or twice a day over the telephone (the line is busy for several dozen seconds) to do away with the need for television programs, for which the viewer spends his own money to learn that a factory in such and such a place has 300 meters of armored copper cable for sale.

We have discussed only a few of the weaknesses of computerization in Poland, the ones which recur most often in discussions with persons who deal with these problems on a day-to-day basis. It seems to me to be pointless to try once again to write a general prescription for the future. Let the specialists do this; they are better at it than I am. Moreover, we must be very careful with general prescriptions in such a rapidly developing branch of science and technology. However, let us remember that the microcomputer (let us keep this designation out of respect for tradition) grew out of the game concept but demands to be treated very seriously. Trivial treatment leads to inconsequential results. The world has bet on computerization and use of small computers. If we are going to be in the race, we should not stand too long at the starting line just looking around.

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CS0: 2600/386

ECONOMIST COMMENTS ON POOR WINTER PREPAREDNESS

Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 21-22 Feb 87 p 3

[Interview with Prof Czeslaw Bobrowski by Henryk Chadzynski: "A Winter Lesson"; date and place not given]

[Text] [Question] Professor, this time our conversation about the economy will begin with winter. We are not so interested in the climate as we are in the relationship between the economy's condition and the methods for countering the elements. Were we actually surprised by this winter?

[Answer] Strictly speaking, it could not have surprised us because it came so unusually late. I do not like the turn of phrase "surprised by winter" which is used in reports and in the mass media. The phrase means that either someone thought there would be no winter or that he was not sufficiently prepared for winter. Obviously, in our climate no one can predict the exact date subzero temperatures will begin. It is also difficult to predict the lowest winter temperatures. There are countries where you know the temperature will not fall so far and ones where you know the temperature will be very, very low. In both these cases prediction is much easier than in Poland. One knows that every year in Moscow the temperature will be below -20 C and in Yakut approach -60 C. In England the average climate requires little preparation for subzero temperatures and snow, for it does not pay. Both occur so rarely that it would be a great waste to gather equipment for these conditions which occur every dozen years or so. Thus it is understood that the occasional blizzards and freezes paralyze transportation in England and the cities look horrible when snow falls. But after a couple of days, the snow disappears without shoveling. It is unprofitable to prepare for little risks.

This is analogous to preparing for floods; building flood prevention structures for floods that occur once a century. But you must prepare for floods if they occur every few years. Hydrologists can establish the data for making a decision.

Given Poland's climatic variations it is much harder, especially as there is not enough to go around. I am thinking of the shortage of financial and material resources for all of the competing goals. I cannot say for what particular things each region of the country should prepare, but I must state

I was gratified to hear that the director of one power plant who said that we could manage to -20 C but greater temperatures would involve great risk.

[Question] Can one prepare for this risk and were we prepared?

[Answer] Again I will begin with an analogy. Let us compare the current winter with the winter of 1979-80. We can say that we were not prepared then for those short intense freezes. I emphasize the length, for we were genuinely surprised then, even ambushed. The blizzards and subzero temperatures appeared on New Years Eve. But surprise does not justify the fact that on a broad scale we were unprepared for a somewhat longer period of subzero temperatures. The main cause was the arbitrary lowering of fuel reserves that power plants were allowed to maintain. This was the second reduction in this bureaucratic standard. With hard freezes and low reserves the task of shipments to maintain continuous operation of the power plants became a struggle to maintain the rail shipping. The struggle shifted from the power plants to the railways. In Warsaw, but probably only in Warsaw, the public bus system also broke down. The chief cause was the contract with Berliet for buses that could not function in our climatic conditions. The shift to Ikaruses has significantly improved the situation. Public transportation did not breakdown this year, although there were sharp disturbances. As concerns the heating plants, I do not know the situation in other cities, but in Warsaw given operations that were not too horrible, we suffered various epidemics of various failures in the transmission network.

[Question] In sum, however, there were serious disturbances which we could counter?

[Answer] Supervision by the authorities at all levels including the highest could not help much in this matter. Simply the heating network is very old, or poor, and usually overloaded. It is easy to find areas of the city whose number of residents has increased so much that the old heating system cannot meet the demands. This is not so much a question of winter as of the state of the municipal services infrastructure and making significant investments to improve its present condition, making up for the neglect and destruction.

[Question] What you say sounds like a justification.

[Answer] This is not a justification, I only broadened the circle of those responsible and indicated the proper date of origin for today's problems. In other words, the ability of the institutions providing services for the people during winter is a significantly broader problem and the problem cannot be divided into pieces. What good does it do to ensure the best operation of the heat and power plants if the transmission system or the installations in the homes are neglected. And since this cycle of statements moves from details to generalization, this is the appropriate place to recall that the economy consists of connected vessels. Seldom will the removal of one limiting factor solve the problem. Sometimes, obviously, one can and should speak of someone's individual guilt, if there is a particular neglect. But more frequently we must avoid phrases like "the Municipal Transportation Enterprise or the Siekierki Power Plant are at fault." That would be oversimplifying. The truth is that the crisis is the cause of today's difficulties. We should

recall the paragraph of the planning law passed by the Sejm on 26 February 1982. It states that the National Socio-Economic Plan and the Central Annual Plans should retain a reserve of production factors essential for implementing the socio-economic tasks under economic conditions more difficult than forecast. Do our plans meet the criteria of this law? Not completely, not even to a large extent. Many items are barely balanced. In conditions like this winter many balances are simply illusions.

[Question] But what relationship does this have to the crisis?

[Answer] I wish to say that the crisis in the literal meaning of a slowing or decline in the national income is behind us. But its effects remain, and unfortunately will continue for some time. In popular terms this means there is not enough to go around, including a shortage of balance reserves.

[Question] Can the scale of this phenomenon be reduced?

[Answer] To some degree, something can be done even in today's conditions. For example, for many years it has seemed to me that we should strive to have as little coal as possible on stockpiles in Silesia. It should first be hauled to regions far from Silesia so that supplementary shipments have to travel the shortest distances. This is not a solution, but only a small half-measure.

[Question] Would it not allow us to create larger reserves, or is it only a question of the planners' approach?

[Answer] Both the central authorities and society desire to achieve the highest possible growth rate, for understandable reasons. This would make it possible to accelerate in many areas and to speed up satisfaction of many crying needs. But this also means that production factors in use are not moved into the reserves, but are exploited maximally. This produces a higher growth rate, but it does not ensure proper functioning of the economy. Gaps must be filled, the shortage of resources must be moved around, tensions which hard conditions like winter expose are painful. The winter lesson is also an economic lesson. It forces not only immediate actions, but also improvement in working methods.

[Interviewer] Thank you for your comments.

13021

CSO: 2600/457

FISHING RESULTS POOR DURING WINTER 1987

Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 6 Mar 87 pp 1,2

[Unattributed report: "Fishing Experiences Hard Times"]

[Text] For the third year in a row, bad weather has wasted another winter fishing season in the Baltic. Theoretically we should now be hauling in nets laden with fish. In practice we are not. January was a catastrophe; all of 8,000 tons were caught. February was better though still at last year's poor level.

In sum the first two months netted 22,000 tons of cod, sprats, and minimal quantities of herring. The processing industries and the fish stores' clients appetites are much larger. In this situation, an increase over last year's catch is improbable.

We should not pretend that the storms, cold, and ice are the only cause of the decline in Baltic catches. The sewers are also destroying this small sea. Everything indicates that the fish population has been decimated.

For a number of years the countries along the Baltic have been unable to agree on limiting catches of cod. As a result, in addition to the normal biological cycle when the cod population declines and the sprat population increases, their decreasing numbers is caused by something on land. Since the Helsinki Convention contains no provisions in this area, most national fishing fleets feel no constraints. The first gets the most is the guiding principle. So it is not surprising that there are fewer cod with each passing year, and that the price is rapidly rising on international markets.

Fortunately, the situation on distant fishing grounds is different. During the first two months fishermen there have caught 108,000 tons of fish. Or 28,000 tons more than last year. Catches of pollack in the Pacific have grown significantly. In the southwest Atlantic, the squid crisis, a valued catch abroad, has ended, although we do not know for how long. This year Polish trawlers have also caught mackerel, saurel, and ocean pike, but the quantities of these was much lower than for the first two.

Kazimierz Nowaczyk, directory of the Fishing Industry Association, attributes the favorable changes on distant fishing ground to improved organization,

better preparations, efficient repairs, and good contracts with our foreign partners.

Recent changes in the regulations governing convertible currency retained earnings for self-financing fishing enterprises mean that the Fishing Industry Association has turned \$20 million more over to the state treasury than previously. Fishermen can earn this money only by increasing exports, which they have done. Each fishing fleet on distant grounds produces \$1,000 strengthening our balance of payments.

Under the previous accounting system and the current improved catches 10,000 to 20,000 tons more of fish would have been available for the domestic market. After the changes in the financial regulations, it looks as if there will be 10,000 to 20,000 fewer tons of fish in spite of Rybex's many efforts to reduce the growing market deficit.

Thus, despite the improved catches at sea, "hunting for fish on land" will not stop. It is somewhat encouraging to note that the outdated fleets of Gryfa, Odra, and Dalmor will be gradually replaced over the next few years. The effects of this operation will be noticeable only after a couple of years, if these ambitious plans become reality.

13021

CSO: 2600/456

BRIEFS

CSSR TRANSSHIPMENTS IN 1986—Last year 2.68 million tons of goods from or for Czechoslovakia were handled by Polish ports. This was the largest amount since 1975. Our southern neighbor's fleet has been produced largely by the Adolf Warski Shipyards in Szczecin, which has so far built nine ships for Czechoslovakia. The shipyards recently signed a contract for two 33,500 ton general cargo vessels for Czechoslovakia. Poland's bilateral contacts, especially Swinoujscie's and Szczecin's, with Czechoslovakia were the subject of a meeting of delegates from Szczecin plants with representatives of the CSSR consulate in Szczecin. [Text] [Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 6 Mar 87 p 5] 13021

FISHING IN SWEDISH WATERS--Polish fishermen will soon begin fishing in the Swedish zone of the Baltic. The Fishing Industry Association in Szczecin has announced that its catch allowance is 13,920 tons of herring and its additional catch allowance is 150,000 tons of cod and 10 tons of salmon. In return the Swedes have an allowance of 4,203 tons of cod and 60 tons of salmon in Polish waters. The Swedes have already begun their fishing. [Text] [Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 6 Mar 87 p 5] 13021

SOVIET CREDITS FOR SHIPYARD REPAIR--The largest investment project in Western Pomerania, the modernization of the Gryfia Shipyard in Szczecin, has begun. The cost of the first stage is estimated at 12 billion zloty (1986 prices). It will enlarge the shipyard's facilities and increase its production capacity. Initial work preparing the area for the hydraulic engineers and construction has been completed. Three production buildings will be constructed. A new floating dock, being built by the Paris Commune Shipyards in Gdynia, will allow the yard to repair ships up to 40,000 deadweight tonnage. The expansion and modernization of the Gryfia Shipyards will increase the yard's production capacity by one-third and is part of the government agreements between Poland and the USSR on the modernization of Polish repair shipyards. The Soviet side is providing investment credits, including funds for purchases of equipment from the second payments area. [Text] [Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 9 Mar 87 p 2] 13021

CSO:2600/456

LJUBLJANA ECONOMIC INSTITUTE CRITICIZES PRICE CONTROL LAW

Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 17 Dec 86 p 7

[Article by J. Pjevic: "Back into Failure"]

[Text] In October, nominal personal incomes were higher by 110 percent. Will this situation necessitate a recourse to coupons and other forms of controlling the economy?

It would be useful if the delegates and many others who these days talk about changes and supplements to the Law on the System of the Social Control of Prices were to take into account the most recent warnings from the Ljubljana Economic Institute (Dr A. Bajt, director) to the effect that, if these changes and supplements are implemented, they will redirect our anti-inflationary policies "in a completely wrong direction," much more than the current economic policy measures.

The Institute sees the main danger in renewed prescribed "criteria" for education, i.e. social control of prices, and in the fact that the planning of inflation is treated as the most significant new regulation governing the actions of the socio-political communities. This not only fails to correct but even intensifies the mistakes made in the early 1970's and, depending on how consistently administrative price controls are implemented, two different types of trends are possible: inconsistent controls of prices will increase the inflation in the economy while decreasing its efficiency minimally; consistent administrative controls of prices will make possible a "spectacular" success in halting the inflation, at the cost of decreasing the efficiency of the economy and changing it into an administratively-controlled one.

According to the Institute, the most recent events and especially the planned changes in the system indicate that the creators of economic policies pay lip service to market economy, while in reality opting for an administrative decrease in inflation and changing the economy into an administrative one. This is confirmed by the proposed changes to articles 13 and 20 of the Law on the System of Social Control of Prices. The first change orders the socio-political communities to take into account the planned rise in prices when determining the prices charged by the organizations of associated labor, and the second extends the existence of direct controls from the current six months to one year, while preserving all the powers that would make it

possible for the federal administration to continue such controls even after the one-year mandate runs out. The Institute warns that this could make it possible to achieve spectacular results in curbing the inflation, but it would also change the economy into an administrative one. This is because, sooner or later, the planning of prices will force the planning of production, which in turn will mean a return to a system of conducting business that is, because of its inefficiency, being abandoned by the centrally controlled economies, on the basis of their experiences. One should not lose sight of the fact that in that case our economy would become considerably less efficient than those of Eastern Europe, which have for decades been perfecting administrative methods of administration and management.

According to the Institute, the decrease in the growth of nominal personal incomes noted in September changed in October into a very fast growth amounting to 7.11 percent. In October of this year, personal incomes were 110 percent higher than in October of last year. If this rate of growth continues, this year's personal incomes will be 128 percent higher than those of last year. From this, the Institute draws the conclusion that the Law on Personal Incomes "is a great failure." In addition to the rise in the prices of semimanufactures and retail prices, the October rise in personal incomes is the first indication of hyperinflation in the months to come. The Institute stresses that such hyperinflation can be controlled only by exceptionally strict curbs, which would subdue and lessen the inflation, but only apparently, i.e. statistically.

Special attention should be paid to the not at all encouraging forecast by the Institute to the effect that a continuation of the current policies which, on the one hand, encourage domestic demand and, on the other, decrease domestic supply, will, after the reserves are exhausted, cause the lack of certain goods on the market and create a situation like the one in 1982. The Institute wonders whether in such a situation there will be a recourse to coupons or other forms of controlling the economy, or to curbing demand through prices. This remains to be seen. At any rate, it is quite certain that the results of the current erroneous stabilization policies remain to be seen in their entirety.

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CSO: 2800/95

LJUBLJANA INSTITUTE REPORT NOTES DETERIORATING ECONOMIC TRENDS

Belgrade EKONOMSKA POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 22 Dec 86 pp 16-17

[Article by Vladimir Gligorov: "In the Middle of Plenty--Scarcity"]

[Text] The policy of increasing supply has led to a growth in demand, but also to a decrease in production and exports. An expansionary monetary policy has made the economic authorities unable to resist inflationary pressures, except through a drastic increase in administrative controls. Once again there may be a scarcity of goods, and this may bring about coupons and other economic controls.

The basic valuation contained in the November booklet entitled "Economic Trends in Yugoslavia" and published by the Economic Institute of the Law Faculty in Ljubljana contains the following statement in the very title: Economic policies are beginning to yield negative consequences that were predicted by theory. The analysts who wrote the booklet wanted to oppose the euphoric interpretations of the economy's results for 1986. Also, they wanted, in contrast to speculations whether the next year will be "easier or more difficult," to point out that we will face an unenviable dilemma: either enter hyperinflation or suffer a scarcity of goods. This dilemma was brought about by a specific vicious circle of facts and policies. The policy of "encouraging supply" has led to a growth in demand, a fall in production and exports, and inflation. These facts "justified" a freeze in prices along with new "monetary incentives," which in turn led to even greater increases in demand and a simultaneous fall in production. Now, the freeze in prices is bringing down production, while monetary expansion is encouraging consumption. This causes the conflict and the dilemmas: if there is a letup in the administrative controls on prices there will be hyperinflation, and if there is not there will be scarce goods, coupons, and "Romanization." If, on the other hand, the choice is postponed and the present pricing and monetary policies are continued, we can expect both of these bad things next year: scarce goods in the midst of plenty of money.

Accelerated Fall in Production

Stated briefly, the facts indicate the following. Exports continue to lag behind last year's. There has been a fall in production for the fifth month in a row, which constitutes a "recession" without precedent in the past 20 years. Domestic demand is again on the rise. Reserves are dwindling, and the

prices of semimanufactures are beginning to go up. Personal incomes are experiencing an "explosion." "The dinar is being converted at an accelerated rate not only into merchandise but also into foreign currency, to a large extent abroad, which is evident not only from a real fall the currency, but also from a quick real fall of dinar deposits and a somewhat slower fall of foreign currency deposits of the population."

The fall in production is the most significant fact. The monthly rate in October was 8.5, which was the fastest fall in 1986. In the past five months (June-October) industrial production fell at an average monthly rate of 5 percent. This is not reflected in the annual statistics, which still indicate an overall growth in production: October vs. October 1 percent and 10 months vs. 10 months 4.2 percent. "According to these indicators, the current fall in production can be noted only in the gradual decrease of yearly increases. In other words, the October (month-to-month) increase is the lowest this year, and the total annual result has been brought down to 4.2 percent, from 4.7 percent in August and September. Because of the high volume of industrial production in November and December 1985, we can expect a further deterioration in the yearly cumulative increase by the end of the year. Those who do not monitor impulse trends will notice a fall in production only in January and February of next year."

What causes falls in production? "The weakening of production that begun in February and its uninterrupted fall from June must be viewed as a whole. At the beginning the recession was brought about by the abandonment of the strategy of an expansive foreign trade policy (this was reflected primarily in a passive foreign exchange policy)... The foreign trade multiplier, therefore, begun to work in a negative direction. The extent of the effect of the erroneous investment policies on excessive allocations for imports and inefficient export allocations of economic resources remains to be seen.

In the middle of the year, a temporary halt in the demand by the population also helped decrease production, but there was an increase in the fall. The fall slowdown and decrease in production were for the most part brought about by the price freeze. As in many previous price freezes, the expansionary monetary policy had no effect on production. On the contrary, in spite of the unprecedented expansion, pressures of demand will most likely become price explosions. With the renewed fall in the supply of ready goods, this mechanism has begun to act. Even if economic policies were to immediately and radically alter their current course, it is doubtful whether this could be prevented."

Unjustified Enthusiasm over Exports

The data on foreign trade are only somewhat less depressing. In spite of a gradual increase in exports, they are still lower than last year's. The same is true of the extent to which imports are covered by exports, i.e. the foreign trade deficit. Even though the spread is decreasing, the deficit is greater than last year and it will exceed all the forecasts (this is true of the convertible currency method of payment). The convertible currency deficit is already over \$1.5 billion (last year, it was almost 25 percent less). "Still, the really negative aspect of this year's economic trends is evident

when one takes into account the exceptionally favorable external circumstances surrounding our commodity trade this year ... without which this year's convertible currency deficit could have been twice as large."

"Economic Trends" once again points out the erroneous dinar exchange policy. "According to data for the four months that the exchange rate has been in effect (July-October), the dinar lost 10.3 percent to the German mark and 2 percent to the dollar. During the same period, domestic retail prices rose 22.6 percent (producer prices by 16.7 percent), while our convertible currency trading partners' inflation did not exceed 2 percent."

If we add the growth in personal incomes (these incomes were 110 percent greater) and in the money mass (somewhat slower, but still "enormous") to the data on trends in production and foreign trade, we can get a picture of the facts underlying the dilemma of hyperinflation or "Romanization." "Economic Trends" states that economic policies have fallen into their own trap. Lower interest rates, the conduct of a passive dinar exchange policy, a price freeze, and monetary incentives have brought about a situation in which the economy demands higher prices to increase production, while monetary expansion is being used as a means of ensuring production until the price dispute is settled. The trap consists of the fact that an expansionary monetary policy has made the economic authorities unable to withstand inflationary pressures without recourse to a drastic increase in administrative controls. "Whether such a situation will bring about coupons and other forms of economic control, or a decrease in excess demand through price increases remains to be seen. It is certain that only the resolution of this dilemma will point out in their entirety the erroneous results of the current stabilization policy -- either through an explosion of prices or through the recourse to a "Romanian" method of solving the problem. Understandably, we would prefer the first solution, and not only because we are economists."

Albeit ironically, "Economic Trends" sees a forced solution in price increases. I am afraid that this too could mean getting caught in a trap. In essence, there is little difference between hyperinflation and coupons: in hyperinflation, money is a coupon, and a totally ineffective one at that. Under such circumstances, the power of the authorities remains the only real foundation for the economy. It will be necessary, and "Economic Trends" says this as well, to simply reject both alternatives for the stabilization policy and -- "Economic Trends" stresses this -- have a combination of monetary and fiscal policies aimed at reducing inflation.

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SOVIET ARMY DAY MARKED AT MAIN POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION

Warsaw ZOLNIERZ WOLNOSCI in Polish 23 Feb 87 pp 1,5

[Article by Lt. Henryk Wierski: "69th Anniversary of the Founding of the Soviet Army -- Friendship, Cooperation, Brotherhood in Arms!"]

[Text] (Own information) In Warsaw on 21 February, the directors of the Chief Directorate of the Society for Polish-Soviet Friendship [TPPK] and the Chief Political Directorate of the Polish Army met with a group of generals that has long worked to strengthen Polish-Soviet friendship and brotherhood in arms.

The meeting marked the 69th anniversary of the founding of the Soviet Army and another important event, the coming 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, an historical event for whose ideals tens of thousands of Poles have also struggled. The lasting foundations for brotherhood and cooperation between our nations, people and armies were established by the Polish and Soviet soldier fighting side-by-side on the same battlefields. These bonds were cemented by the blood each shed in the fight against Nazi fascism and were broadened by soldierly service to protect the borders of the socialist community.

As the director of the Chief Political Directorate of the Polish Army, Division General Tadeusz Szacilo, stressed in his speech, soldiers of the Polish People's Army today are also fervent advocates of Polish-Soviet friendship and brotherhood in arms in an alliance which is the bedrock of our national security, independence and international position. The chief of the Political Directorate of the Polish Army stressed that we regard strengthening of the sincere bonds between us as one of our strategic tasks both in terms of historical as well as contemporary considerations.

The chairman of the Chief Political of the TPPK, Stanislaw Wronski, spoke about the army's role in strengthening fraternal ties between Polish and Soviet society and also pointed out that many soldiers have been active members of the TPPK from the very start of its existence. The chairman of the Chief Directorate of the TPPK sincerely thanked the society's soldier aktiv

and also expressed his respect and recognition for the everyday efforts made by soldiers to achieve a high degree of combat readiness, efficiency and reliability in the Polish People's Army, an important element in the socialist defensive coalition of the Warsaw Pact.

A solemn accent in the meeting was a ceremony to decorate a large group of generals and officers with TPPR medals. The gold medal "For merit in strengthening Polish-Soviet friendship" was received by generals of arms Zbigniew Nowak and Wojciech Baranski, division generals Jozef Cwetsch, Stanislaw Fryn and Wladyslaw Polanski, brigadier generals Tadeusz Kojder, Leslaw Wojtasik, Albin Zyto and Mieczyslaw Michalik and by Col. Leon Morawski.

They also received gold honorary medals from the TPPR.

The deputy chief of the Chief Political of Polish Army and director of the Department of Propaganda and Agitation, Brigadier General Leslaw Wojtasik, expressed the thanks of the officers so honored and also assured those present that the military activists of the TPPR will continue their commitment to Polish-Soviet friendship, cooperation and brotherhood in arms.

12261

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WRAPUP ON SOVIET ARMY DAY CELEBRATIONS

Warsaw ZOLNIERZ WOLNOSCI in Polish 23 Feb 87 pp 1, 5

[Article by [tp]: "United In Shared Duties"]

[Text] In all of the units, garrisons, institutions, schools, enterprises and establishments of the armed forces, the last few days have been marked by many activities such as concerts, evening parties, contests, public appearances and meetings to mark the 69th anniversary of the Soviet Army.

Soviet generals of the Soviet Army Northern Group of Armies and border troops and the ambassadors and employees of the USSR embassy and consulates in Poland were invited to numerous events honoring the holiday for our Soviet comrades in arms. Many professional soldiers and enlisted men along with troops from both armies and combat veterans also participated in these ceremonies.

The fact that in one year we will also be celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution has given a very serious tone to today's anniversary of the Soviet armed forces. Poles have left a beautiful record of themselves in the events of the last 70 years. Many of them joined the fight to defend the ideals of the world's first state founded for social justice in the 1st Revolutionary Regiment of Warsaw. The names of such great Poles as Dzierzynski, Rokossowski and Swierczewski have left a permanent mark in history and are inseparably linked with these mighty events.

We presented extensive information on the Polish Army's celebration of the 69th anniversary of the Soviet Army which, as the armed force of the workers, peasants and progressive intelligentsia, destroyed foreign and internal intervention. With the Soviet Army, the liberator of nations, we are inseparably joined by a brotherhood of ideas and arms which has been cemented by the blood we both shed in our struggle against Nazi fascism on the fronts of World War II. The Polish People's Army trail of battle which started at Lenino led Polish soldiers side by side with those of the Red Army along the shortest path to Lublin, Warsaw, the ancient Piast lands, Pomerania and so on to the liberation of their fatherland and then onward to Berlin, the Elbe and Prague.

The entire postwar road of the Polish People's Army was followed in the closest alliance and internationalist unity of the goals of the Warsaw pact, the guarantor of our independence and sovereignty. That is why this holiday of our Soviet comrades in arms is so close to the hearts of Polish soldiers and is an uncommonly solemn event reminding all of us of our heroic past and our present shared toil to defend the nations of our coalition in the name of peace, the security of nations and the strengthening of socialist construction.

These were the thoughts and reflections that followed the participants to the ceremonies in the Polish Army honoring the 69th anniversary of the Soviet Army. Much satisfaction was expressed at the progress achieved in the socialist reconstruction of the Soviet Union for, as the resolution of the 27th CPSU Congress stated, the good of peace, greater democracy and more social activity.

Ceremonial concerts, meetings and evening parties were held in the commands of the army districts and branches of the armed forces in the Baltic coastal region, Poznan, Bydgoszcz and Wroclaw as well as in the central institutions of the Defense Ministry. Our Soviet comrades in arms were everywhere sincerely congratulated and received best wishes for many future successes in their service, training and personal life. The ceremonies marking the 69th anniversary of the Soviet Army were an opportunity to demonstrate our friendship and the close, internationalist ties between both of our fraternal armies.

12261

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ACHIEVEMENTS OF MILITARY TECHNICAL ACADEMY FEATURED

Commandant on School Record, Goals

Warsaw WOJSKOWY PRZEGLAD TECHNICZNY in Polish No 12, Dec 86 pp 513-517

[Article by Col. Bde. Prof. Edward Wlodarczyk, Commandant, Military Technical Academy: "35 Years of the Military Technical Academy"]

[Text] In the 35 years that it has been growing, the Military Technical Academy [WAT] has created its own unique style of work to meet the modern demands and tasks of educating military technical specialists. With a full knowledge that the school's scientific sophistication and ideological commitment are of supreme importance to the outcome of its work, special attention was always devoted to its correct preparation. A high feeling of responsibility was cultivated along with the need for organizational cohesion, clear-cut goals, conscious discipline and a party-minded attitude of devotion to the cause of socialism. In realizing its fundamental task of educating military technical specialists, WAT has also succeeded in developing a sound technical base and in broadening its scientific research. This activity is concentrated on solving research problems that are important to the army and the national economy.

WAT forges a modern engineering and scientific cadre for all branches of the armed forces. It provides nearly 30 types of engineering training and educates technical officers with diverse course and post-graduate study programs. It also provides doctoral studies for the personnel of military institutes and higher schools.

WAT's multilevel model of education and training considers the needs of the troops, their present and future combat equipment as well as the specific work of various branches of service which aside from engineering skills also requires educational, organizational and command skills and a fundamentally high degree of qualification.

The essential trait of the didactic process is modern teaching programs and courses that allow students to gain general knowledge, a familiarity with the

design and operation of army equipment, technical support of troops, the ability to work with other people, to quickly reach correct decisions and to operate under the complicated and difficult conditions of the contemporary and future field of battle.

A continually-improving system of exercises with equipment and field training and practice prepares graduates for work in their first assigned unit. Much attention is given to broadening the student's personality and his scientific interests. This is expressed in the activities of scientific circles where students have the opportunity to become familiar with laboratories and research methods and to test their knowledge in practice by solving specific problems. At the same time, they are also trained to be able to independently solve complicated problems that are a part of the research conducted at WAT. Twelve percent of the students participate in the scientific circles. Their work has been acknowledged in the national forum of the student's movement. They have received awards from rectors, the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Young Masters of Technology Contest. Particularly gifted students with great achievements in the scientific circles are qualified for individual studies. The studies are conducted according to special programs directed by a high class of specialists, professors and docents. At the present time, more than three percent of these persons are especially gifted students working individually. The graduates of these studies are later assigned to teach at WAT, higher officer's schools and military technical institutes.

In ideological work, the chief emphasis is on the cultivation of patriotic and internationalist attitudes and the preparation of students for ideological indoctrination of their subordinates. An important role is played by party and youth organizations thanks to which WAT enjoys a lively political atmosphere that stimulates activity and selflessness in the execution of service, social and political duties. The activity of these organizations is concentrated on integrating the efforts of the teaching staff and creating a close link between the processes of ideological indoctrination, didactics and scientific research.

The 35 years of teaching experience of the WAT staff shows that didactic and educational processes will bring about the expected results when they form a dialectical unity and are properly directed and when the school's organization does not neglect the real life of the students. We know that education must be an ongoing process and that it requires patience and especially the authority of the academic instructor and an unambiguous moral and political attitude on his part. This is also one of the basic directions taken in the activity of the school organizations and party instances.

Our graduates serve in various posts, in all units and institutions of the Polish Army's technical services and often even hold responsible commands. The enormous majority of these are socially committed soldiers who care about their weapons, equipment and combat readiness. They are high-minded, ready to make sacrifices and greater than average efforts and are ready to act to achieve greater productivity, thrift and better quality of army equipment.

With a full sense of conviction, they participate in the ideological indoctrination of their soldiers and their technical training.

WAT's didactic activity is also paralleled by its scientific research. Since the beginning of the 1960's when the Academy was best known for its lasers and analogue computers, many things have changed. The school has improved its scientific policy and specialized its research teams. It now has its own modern base of laboratories, thanks in part to its own efforts, and carries out complex tasks. WAT's research program is closely linked with current programs for the development of individual scientific disciplines and considers the current and future needs of the army, the defense industry and the national economy. Above all, WAT conducts comprehensive research on military technology, the improvement of military equipment and technology, its manufacture and the principles for its use in peace and in battle.

As a result of its research programs, WAT has produced reports that have contributed to the improved deployment, capabilities and defensive effectiveness of army troops and greater effectiveness and fire strength of their weaponry. Many of our designs have been recommended by the Warsaw Pact Technical Committee and this has promoted greater cooperation with the armies of the socialist countries and especially the Soviet Army. This cooperation has been mutually beneficial and has strengthened the brotherhood in arms and combat readiness of the socialist community.

In our special duty of strengthening the nation's defenses, we remember the need to commit our skills to hastening the country's social and economic growth. We do this directly by research work for the national economy and also indirectly by providing information on the results of our military research. The result of this activity has been the production of unique devices as well as mass production for internal needs as well as for export and for reducing the need for export goods. Our research in mining, the machine industry, medicines, electronics and other fields are well known in Poland.

In recent years, WAT has developed an explosion theory and a technology for the industrial production of new viscous explosives for open-pit and underground mining. This work was carried out in conjunction with the Pronit-Erg works in Pionki. A production plant is being built on the basis of the new technology. It must be pointed out that in the second half of the 1970's, WAT discussed the purchase of a license on the production of viscous explosives with Dupont. It also did a great deal of work on the improvement of safety techniques in underground mining. For example, in cooperation with the Gliwice Center for Mining Mechanization, WAT developed an original dynamic testing device that simulates bouncing in mining props and mechanized stands. At that time, the pile-drivers then used were much more expensive, more energy-intensive, interrupted surrounding work and did not meet export requirements.

Emergency rescue work in mines now uses a system developed by WAT for efficiently locating victims trapped in mine collapses. WAT has also developed an anti-explosion device with enhanced shock resistance. This device can be quickly installed at the site of a collapse.

Our scientists have been fruitfully working with the automotive industry. Some of the results of this work have been ideas for saving fuel and oils, improved quality of suspensions and rubber parts, trouble-shooting and increased durability of vehicle chasses. WAT has cooperated with the Warsaw Passenger Automobile Factory to develop and produce a prototype series of electronically-controlled non-locking brake systems that substantially increase vehicle safety. These systems are an original Polish design that are comparable in performance to the best world standards.

For the electronics industry, WAT has developed and produced a device for coding silicon wafers which is already being used to produce integrated circuits in the Semiconductor. This device increases production efficiency and has helped the center achieve considerable savings. This type of device produced in the western states are presently under an embargo.

In cooperation with the S. Kaliski Institute of Plasma Physics and Laser Microsynthesis, WAT has developed infrared detectors. Some of these are exported to highly-industrialized nations. At the present time, negotiations are being conducted with firms from Japan, Switzerland and the German Federal Republic to license WAT's liquid-crystal technology.

WAT has also developed and introduced to clinical practice many modern surgical, laryngeological and ophthalmological devices and instruments that employ lasers. Recently, our scientists have become actively involved in oncological research. A technology for producing hematoporphorine used to destroy malignant cells seems to have been successfully developed.

WAT's staff has also assumed the difficult task of developing a safety and warning system for the nuclear power plant in Zarnowiec.

These are only a few examples of practical technical problems that WAT has solved for the national economy. This is our contribution to overcoming the difficulties caused by the hostile capitalist states' scientific and technical blockade of Poland.

The present state of the academy, its teaching, scientific and research achievements as well as its authority and position let us finish this 35 years in the conviction that we have met our tasks well. The results of our work and service confirm the correctness of the goals we have chosen and the means used to reach them. The realization of our programs has been an enormous effort and a matter of the creative work and commitment of our entire staff.

Aside from the results that have been directly useful to the national defense and economy, the extensive growth and intensification of research work has had

a substantial influence on the growth of the teaching staff of the academy and of other military schools. At the present time, more than 50 percent of WAT's teaching personnel have degrees and academic titles. Most of them are WAT graduates and have been there ever since they began their teaching careers.

WAT's scientific achievements and the qualifications of its academic personnel have given all of the school's departments the right to grant doctoral degrees in technical sciences, physics, chemistry and military sciences. Some departments also have the right to confer the degree of doctor habilitatus.

The presented achievements were above all the result of fervor, talent and creative effort on the part of our school's personnel. Constructive dissatisfaction and a critical outlook on what we do is always highly appreciated. The academy's achievements have also been fostered by the contributions made by all of its departments, academic teachers (especially the independent scholars), the school's party organization, youth organization and others.

If the Polish Army is now a modern and well-run institution as well as an ideologically-minded and patriotic one, it is because graduates of our academy have helped bring that about. In its 35 years of existence, WAT has not only educated the mainstream of our armed forces' technical personnel but has also taught its graduates to be ideologically committed citizens that think in terms of the good of the state and given them the moral and political motivation necessary to overcoming difficult and responsible tasks.

The Most Important Results of Research and Development Work

- electronic, automated low- and average-capacity telephone switchboards;
- data transmission devices providing reliable and rapid radio communications;
- devices for automatic signals communication and change of radio channels;
- computerized command systems for air defense troops;
- satellite signals receiving stations;
- equipment for converting written language into Morse code;
- monitor used in conjunction with Odra 1300 and Ryad series computers for dynamic imaging of the tactical and operational situation;
- tank main gun fire control system;
- laser range finders for artillery;
- radioactivity warning devices;
- a laser transmitter for telemetry in outer space;
- laser training devices in which the laser simulates the tank main gun;
- target imitator for the radar target-finder in fighter aircraft;
- radar situation imitator;
- wireless system for controlling battlefield [środkami pozoracji];
- a set of builder's textbooks on the subject of pressure waves on underground objects;
- subassemblies with an acoustic surface wave;;
- dust filters for helicopter engines;

- airport snow removal equipment;
- a technology for repairing armored personnel carriers in the field;
- a technology of light glued geodesic masts;
- individual chemical dosimeter of increased durability.

Specialized Studies at WAT

- Mechanical Engineering Department -- mechanized vehicles, airplanes and helicopters, engineering machinery and fuel devices;
- Electronics Department -- signals, radar and optico-electronics;
- Electromechanical Department -- electromechanical systems, operation of electromechanical and electronic devices, automated control systems;
- Department of Land Engineering and Geodesy -- military construction, airport construction, sanitary installations in construction, electrical power facility construction, military geodesy and meteorology;
- Chemistry and Technical Physics Department -- troop protection against contamination, explosive materials and technical physics;
- Cybernetics Department -- computer systems and data-processing systems.

The History of WAT

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| 22 March 1951 | Sejm resolution to establish the Military Technical Academy; |
| 18 July 1951 | decree naming WAT after General Jaroslaw Dabrowski; |
| 18 December 1951 | WAT is opened; |
| 1 April 1953 | the first graduating class; |
| 15 July 1954 | the first doctoral dissertation (Capt. S. Kaliski and M. Radwan) is defended at WAT; |
| 12 October 1956 | WAT receives its standard; |
| August 1963 | Poland's first helium and neon gas laser generates infrared radiation; |
| 1966 | Poland's first carbon dioxide molecular laser is started up; |
| 18 December 1971 | WAT is awarded the Order of the Labor Standard, First Class; |
| 1973 | a team of scientists from WAT and the Institute of Nuclear Research led by Division General Professor Doctor Sylwester Kaliski produces microsynthesis in a plasma of light elements by using high-powered laser impulses. |

Soviet Assistance

At the beginning of the 1950's, the Soviet army provided enormous and invaluable help in the organization of WAT and in the growth of this school. As early as 1950, the Soviet Army delegated scores of highly-qualified specialists and teachers to help the new school. One specific and valuable form of assistance was the sharing of teaching programs and providing an enormous amount of didactic help.

For 16 years, from 1951 to 1967, WAT's commandants were the Soviet generals Yevgeny Leoshenya and Mikhail Ovchinnikov. Throughout its 35 years of

existence, the academy has and continues to receive specialized consultation and practice in the Soviet Union.

WAT's Honorary Doctors

- N.G. Basow (1974), Nobel Prize laureate;
- D.F. Ustinov (1976), Marshall of the Soviet Union;
- Professor Witold Nowacki (1986), active member of the Polish Academy of Sciences;
- Professor Bohdan Paszkowski (1986), active member of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

WAT's achievements include:

- thousands of graduates in various fields of study including 200 graduates from fraternal armies;
- more than 1000 scientific reports which have been used by the army, the national economy and at WAT;
- more than 120 books and monographs, many of which have been translated into Russian, English, Japanese and French;
- about 4000 articles in national and foreign scientific journals;
- almost 700 patents and copyrights including 29 abroad;
- over 1000 doctoral dissertations including 400 defended outside of WAT;
- almost 100 successfully completed post-doctorate courses;
- 53 titles of extraordinary professor and 14 titles of common professor earned by academy graduates;
- Two WAT professors have been chosen as correspondent members of the Polish Academy of Sciences and one as an active member;
- 11 state awards of the highest rank;
- 78 awards by the defense minister;
- scores of awards from the Polish Academy of Sciences, the minister of science, higher education and technology and other departmental awards.

Examples of Major Patents

Warsaw WOJSKOWY PRZEGLAD TECHNICZNY in Polish No 12, Dec 86 p 551

[Article by Col. Zygmunt Ognik: "Patents from WAT"]

[Text] Scientific research is one of the two chief directions of activity at the Military Technical Academy. This research has a great influence on the quality and level of education is, to a significant degree, the measure of the scientific sophistication of the personnel and determines the school's rank and authority within the academic community. Research stimulates the academic and technical personnel to find new and original ideas, many of which become inventions and are patented.

The inventions developed at WAT have great practical value. Aside from their military benefits, they also produce economic advantages in their use in the

armed forces and civilian economy. There are also numerous ideas whose effects cannot be measured in zlotys and these are found in reports on improving the operation and repair of equipment, on training systems and the streamlining of command and management.

WAT's personnel uses its skills and abilities to solve complicated problems of scientific research not only in purely military fields but also in areas important to the civilian economy. While solving scientific and technical problems in recent years, WAT specialists have developed many laser devices that serve mankind and these include modern surgical, laryngeological and ophthalmological instruments and devices, a laser system for transverse-solid coagulation of the retina with an operating probe, a laryngeological laser lancet for microsurgery on the vocal cords, a set of lasers for tissue biostimulation which allows external and internal illumination, an electronic device for measuring the coordinates of the plane of the center of gravity of the human body and an orthopedic retractor whose use makes it possible to successfully and safely correlate the side curvature of childrens' spines.

WAT's laboratories have developed a new class of liquid-crystal compounds for black-and-white and color indicators. These have begun to be produced in Poland and a license for their manufacture has been sold to foreign firms. WAT also developed a technology for the production of viscous explosives for open-pit and underground mining. Working in cooperation with the mining industry, the academy has developed an original dynamic testing device for mining props and mechanized stands that simulates the effects of bouncing. For emergency rescue work in mines, it has also developed a system for efficiently locating victims trapped in mine collapses and an anti-explosion device with enhanced shock resistance.

Many of WAT's discoveries involve the conservation of fuel, energy and materials. For example, for the automotive industry, WAT developed a new type of parabolic springs, stabilizers in the form of twisted rods and hydraulic telescopic shock absorbers. Many of these ideas have increased the service life of vehicle chasses and improved the quality of suspensions and rubber elements. Working in conjunction with the automotive industry, WAT created a system of electronically-controlled non-locking brakes and new sintered materials for gears slip rings. Many of the academy's automotive inventions involve structural concepts used in the production of buses as well as the production of components for lubricating oils. A radar device joined with an external computer system has been successful in measuring the level of the coal load in hutches. A geophysical radar is being used to mine rock salt. This device is used to detect layer irregularities or flooded zones that pose a danger to mining operations. The use of this radar has increased mine safety and reduced the amount of costly preventive drilling needed in water-threatened zones. The radar can also be used to locate gas-bearing zones.

A WAT patent for cast steel highly resistant to abrasion is being used in the machine-building industry and especially in the railroad industry. This patent has also been regarded with some interest in Hungarian industry.

Using the developed technology of cholesteric liquid crystals and domestic materials and reagents, WAT built a medical human body heat indicator and thermographic foils. WAT's technology for liquid-crystal substances is especially useful for building indicators that work within a given temperature range. The electronics industry has been using devices such as a laser for correcting resistors and a pirometer adapted for remote measurement of the body temperatures of automotive spark plugs during the final operation of their assembly-line manufacture. As part of its work in space technology, WAT has developed an interpolator system for a time-lapse digitalizer which is widely used in precision laser telemetric systems, nuclear reactor apparatus and in semiconductor technology used to study rapid integrated circuits. A folio modulator and folio nonlinear adsorber have been successfully adapted to lasers and these are comparable in quality to the best imported, costly laser filters.

For soil reclamation enterprises, WAT has developed a laser device for controlling the blade of an excavator so that it can move soil with the utmost degree of precision. It has also presented ideas for adapting laser technology to the automation of single-blade excavators.

A laser device has been developed for automating the measurement of lateral displacement of hydrotechnical structures and damage warning systems.

For the steel industry, WAT has developed a device for determining the depth of the charge in furnaces before zinc and lead are poured out.

Poland is now producing its own domestic trailer-mounted snow removers to replace imported machines.

These examples do not at all exhaust the list of patents and copyrights for WAT's inventions. In its 35 years of operation, the school has received nearly 700 patents, 29 of which are foreign. It has signed 67 license agreements for the use of its inventions and four of these were for foreign licenses. Most of the school's doctoral and post-doctoral dissertations are practical in character and are directly associated with the needs of national defense and the economy. Many of them have become the source of a patent.

12261

CSO: 2600/442

LOCAL CONFERENCE ON YOUTH PATRIOTIC-DEFENSE TRAINING

Warsaw ZOLNIERZ WOLNOSCI in Polish 23 Feb 87 p 5

[Article by [SR]: "Youth Patriotic-Defense Training -- Hard and Responsible Tasks"]

[Text] A scientific session organized at the Romuald Traugutt Number Two General Education Secondary School in Czestochowa discussed means of helping schools realize their difficult tasks in the defense and patriotic training of youth.

The session was attended by directors, defense training instructors and PZPR secretaries from primary and middle schools in Czestochowa Province. Also present were representatives of the province's political and government authorities, a member of the Central Audit and Review Commission, First Secretary of the Czestochowa provincial PZPR Committee Jerzy Sypek and Vice-Governor Julian Czajkowski. The political directorate of the Silesian Military District was represented by Col. Jerzy Bienek and Col. Eugeniusz Ruson represented the Provincial Military Headquarters in Czestochowa. The representatives of socialist youth unions, paramilitary organizations and the superintendent of education (on whose initiative the session was organized) also attended.

The introduction to discussion was provided by reports read by Col. Jerzy Bienek and Dr. Stanislaw Czarnicka. With regard to the present political and military situation in the world, the important role played by youth patriotic-defense training in improvement of the state's defenses was stressed. There are numerous examples of how this problem is correctly understood by the teaching personnel in Czestochowa schools such as the Group of Machinery Schools of the Boleslaw Bierut Steel Mills, the Technical Science Institutes, Romuald Traugutt General Education Secondary School Number Two, the Zygmunt Berling Primary School Number 48, Primary School Number 9 and Number 3 in Lubliniec.

Youth organizations and the representatives of paramilitary organizations have a rich selection of things to offer school youth. The army is giving schools

extensive help in setting up their national memory chambers. Army lecturers eagerly participate in defense and civil training lectures.

Dr. Stanislaw Czarnecka gave a theoretical lecture describing the importance of the partnership between the family, schools and social institutions in political and defense training of the young generation and she also emphasized the role that the Polish Scouting Union plays in this process.

The discussion brought up many examples of the good cooperation between schools, regional ZBoWiD [Union of Fighters for Freedom and Democracy], the LOK [National Defense League] and the Vistula-Oder Association. Zbigniew Blaszczyk, the director of the Technical Scientific Establishments, stated that the schools are doing good work in recruiting candidates for military vocational schools and this is because military training is so popular among pupils.

Summarizing the conference, the first secretary of the Czestochowa provincial PZPR Committee, Jerzy Sypek, pointed out numerous opportunities for strengthening the role that schools play in the defense and patriotic training of youth. "An important role in conveying the right behavior and attitude toward work," he said, "is played by the cooperation between schools and youth organizations as well as other educational institutions".

The session participants then took part in the opening of the school's national memory chamber which was created by the shared efforts of the teachers, pupils and the Czestochowa community of veterans. The chamber includes miniature models of memorials that closely resemble the originals found throughout historical places in Poland.

12261

CSO: 2600/444

CONTEST WINNERS EXEMPT FROM ACADEMY ENTRANCE POLITICAL EXAMS

Warsaw ZOLNIERZ WOLNOSCI in Polish 27 Feb 87 pp 1, 5

[Article by Jerzy Rajch: "Olympics of Social, Political and Pedagogical Knowledge -- Satisfies and Mobilizes"]

[Text] The first stage of the "Olympics of Social, Political and Pedagogical Knowledge" for directors of groups for political training of soldiers in basic military service has ended. Within their units, the winners have been announced and during their spring instruction and methodology courses in April, they will participate in the second stage of the contest which will be held at the level of tactical units.

The idea of the olympics originated among these very same directors of political training groups. A year ago, during one of the meetings held with representatives of the Chief Political Directorate of the Polish Army, they announced the need for the introduction of some new means of mobilizing people to deepen their knowledge and perfect skills. Considering these demands and having developed the proper regulations and principles for such a contest, the Training and Lecture Division of the Chief Political Directorate also intended to create the right conditions for the contest participants to demonstrate their social and political knowledge and gain personal satisfaction. The olympics program was broken down into the 5 subject areas of Polish history, international problems, principles of philosophical education and methods of political training.

An aviation unit. The written portion is the first stage of the olympics is reaching its conclusion. Scores of political training group directors assembled in an office submit papers with answers to the 5 contest questions.

Capt. Bogdan Chwazik is a helicopter commander. He gave exhaustive answers to all questions but feels that he will not be one of the three winners. His colleagues were well-prepared and more experienced. He has only been involved with political work for one year. He is interested in Polish history and intends to continue studying it. That interest will certainly prove useful in the coming editions of the contest and during his classes with soldiers.

One of his more experienced colleagues is Lt. Dariusz Balicki. He is the commander of a subunit and has already conducted political training for 5 years.

"I am in my first year of evening courses at the Military Political Academy," he says. "These courses have certainly helped me to prepare for the contest. I was familiar with the subjects covered by the contest and am also quite interested in them. I prepared myself well but will have to wait and see just how I did..."

The contestants learned about the thematic program and bibliography a month ago. It was posted in the methodology office and the library. There was therefore much time but not enough for everyone. As we all know, an aviation unit's first responsibility is flying.

The secretary of the PZPR committee said that the idea of the contests was well understood by everyone. This interest was aroused not only by the prizes, one of which is exemption from the political and social part of the entrance examinations to military academies.

"I expected a somewhat narrower selection of subjects," said 2nd Lt. Waldemar Stec. "The problems we were required to discuss were very general. I therefore suspect that the next round will be harder. I had the most problems with the study of religions. I am a graduate of the Military Technical Academy and during my studies there, we had too little instruction on that subject. The first round was not at all easy. I think that at this level of testing, it would be more appropriate to use the form of a quiz".

2nd Lt. Zbigniew Piotrowski won first place in his unit and second place was taken by Lt. Mieczyslaw Ryng.

"I am interested both in Poland's modern and ancient history," explains Lt. Krzysztof Kondrat who took third place. "Aside from that, my wife is an historian so it was no problem for me to prepare myself for the contest. I am serious about my participation, all the more so as I qualified for the next round. I will try to not disappoint my superiors and colleagues. I am also determined to not fall into last place".

The Olympics of Social, Political and Pedagogical Knowledge is a new means of enriching the skills of group directors and its goal is to encourage a deeper knowledge of the history of our people and state, the progressive traditions of Polish arms, social and economic problems and the principles of pedagogy and military didactics.

One shortcoming seems to be the fact that it is only the directors' theoretical knowledge that is tested because there is no way that written or spoken responses can show how well the officers actually conduct their classes.

"This is the first edition of the contest and that is why we expect to see certain organizational and methodological shortcomings," explains Capt. Zdzislaw Harezlak of the Chief Political Directorate's Training and Lecture Division. "We gathered the participants' responses on the forms we proposed and the scale of difficulty and range of problems. We scrupulously noted all remarks and we will use them to prepare materials for the next rounds. The gathered material will be analyzed and considered in the modification and improvement of the next editions of the contest".

All of the directors of training groups too part in the contest. This is what underlines its uniqueness and greatest virtue which is its universality. Training group directors have an important role in the armed forces system of ideological indoctrination. It is their knowledge, teaching skills and personal commitment to the political training program that more than anything else influences the troops' political and defense awareness. The troops also benefit from this contest because they are the ones who will eventually receive be the recipients of the deepened knowledge of their instructors.

12261

CSO: 2600/444

SZUROS ON PROBLEMS OF CEMA, SOCIALIST COOPERATION

Budapest PARTELET in Hungarian No 3, 1987 pp 3-7

[Article by Matyas Szuros, MSZMP CC Secretary: "The International Situation, Workers Movement--New Requirements"]

[Text] Once again these days, the international situation is being overshadowed by long-term tension and elements of confrontation. Aside from that, however, some favorable tendencies evolved during the past year or two. They are making their effects felt, primarily in east-west relations.

The chief characteristics of the international situation are well manifested by circumstances that brought about the Reykjavik Summit--by the very fact that a Summit took place, and by its consequences. As a result of Reykjavik, the nouveau approach to international security that characterized Soviet and other socialist nations' foreign policy has become even more clear and unequivocal in the eyes of world public opinion. Based on a new approach to nuclear disarmament and on well-thought-out, large-scale initiatives contained in a comprehensive package plan, the Soviet position enjoys widespread approval and support throughout the world. We share the view that Reykjavik was not merely an isolated event. It is a station in a long-term process--a process whose effects and consequences are beginning to evolve only now. It is apparent that time, patience and further diplomatic initiatives are needed to permit the other party to evaluate the Soviet Union's proposed compromises, and to permit the maturing of a willingness to agree--one that was not yet present in Reykjavik.

The first stage of the Vienna follow-up conference was a positive event in international politics. The proceedings of that stage were definitively influenced by a preparedness to take the initiative, as manifested by socialist diplomacy. The socialist nations' proposals regarding all issues were aimed at the formation of an appropriate balance between the Helsinki "basket cases", and to draw appropriate attention to the heretofore neglected issue of east-west economic, scientific-technological and ecological cooperation. We attribute great significance to the fact that in Vienna, socialist

diplomacy played the role of a catalyst in the field of humanitarian cooperation. The conferences in Ottawa, Bern and Budapest proved already that in this field too there is a need for sober, constructive dialog, and that there is no need for us to be on the defensive.

The decisive role of the two super-powers in influencing the international situation is unquestionable. Smaller nations, nevertheless, have a way of contributing to the cause of security and cooperation. Their role may be considerable in preserving and strengthening an atmosphere of confidence indispensable to the reduction of tensions.

Using this as a starting point, Hungary assumed an active role in the past, maintaining east-west dialog and broadening international relations. The main objective of our foreign policy is to promote international conditions that are most favorable to our internal development. We start out from realities, then we continue endeavouring to accomplish our goals with principled firmness and with flexibility in practice. Making good use of our historic features and our peculiar circumstances, we continue to accept our share in influencing the workings and realization of concepts and proposals that bear on international relations, and to assume the role of the catalyst in deepening and making durable the thaw in international relations. We do so within our limits. Just as in the past, our foreign policy consistently endeavours that our interest in strengthening European security and cooperation prevail, and that as members of the socialist community we may actively participate in jointly defining and enforcing the objectives that serve these interests.

The lessons learned from our joint efforts toward relaxing international tensions demonstrate that individual socialist nations may play an important role in securing the external conditions for this constructive work. A jointly developed direction may be brought to prevail even more successfully, if, beyond mutual support and joint action, we consciously build upon opportunities that individual nations' foreign policies may have, using historically evolved bilateral relations, or those that evolved over the past decade or years. We are prepared to accept an international role of this nature in the future, a role that is harmonized and makes increased use of the peculiar opportunities of individual nations.

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We are aware of the fact that we can best contribute to the improvement of the international climate through the achievements of socialist construction, through the democratic features and the stability of our internal affairs, and by being open-minded. Life presents significant tasks in this respect also. Using the analysis of our Party's 13th Congress, and bearing in mind the evaluations made by the 27th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party as well as by the various sister congresses, we may draw up the challenges to be faced by socialist nations in the mid-eighties.

European socialist nations, including Hungary, have reached a threshold in socialist development--one that signifies a new quality. This new quality

manifests itself in the fact that we can no longer delay charting our course for a new type of intensive development. Both the internal and external circumstances demand the adoption of the new course. The recognition itself is not new: the communist parties of European socialist nations have recognized already in the mid-sixties and early seventies the diminishing availability of external growth resources, and went on to define the need for a new direction in social and economic development. Since then the unfavorable tendencies have gained strength--economic growth slowed down or has stagnated, the structural transformation of the people's economy did not take place, both internal and external imbalances appeared, and the rise in the standard of living came to a halt. All this signifies that the process of transformation is evolving slowly and that it is laden with contradictions. The increasing number of internal concerns only added to the unfavorable outcomes produced by the world economic crisis, to the delayed reaction to the crisis, to inflexibility in the ability to adapt, and to increasing and prolonging tensions in international relations.

The policies of extremist circles in capitalist nations have a dual purpose. They have as their aim to intensify the arms race and to upset the historical military balance. They are trying to reverse the forces of social progress and want to impose their own will upon them, on the one hand. On the other hand, they are trying to produce economic exhaustion among socialist nations. They are doing so by using their scientific and technological advantage in the arms race, to draw away socialist countries' resources needed for the transformation of society, to the evolution of a scientific and technological revolution, and to the achievement of social goals.

The magnitude of the challenge is increased by the fact that developed capitalist nations emerged from the severe crisis with their political stability intact. By mobilizing the system's political, and especially economic reserves, and by having a modern production structure, these capitalist nations are a significant step ahead, even in certain areas of scientific and technological development. The global accomplishment of socialist nations has depreciated, and this continues to have its effects even today.

We may not assume that our socialist order of society will automatically be capable to successfully defend itself against these external and internal challenges. All this requires substantial changes in the methods of socialist construction, and a renewal in our economic management, our political system, our culture and our way of thinking. It is not only our socialist objectives and our internal stability that requires these changes. Changes are indispensable also from the viewpoint of the long-term security of the balance of powers between the two military-political systems of alliances, and for the preservation of the international presence of socialist nations.

The 13th Congress adopted a program aimed at the renewal of social and economic development and the further deepening of socialist democracy. The realization of this program may be greatly enhanced by further developing cooperation between socialist nations.

Over a period of more than three decades, there evolved among socialist nations a process by which new kinds of relationships are established and developed. This new process is consistent with the principles of Marxism-Leninism, and with the principles of equality and independence, as well as of internationalism. Within the Warsaw Pact and within CEMA, various forms and mechanisms of cooperation evolved. Not all of these, however, meet the demands imposed by the radical changes that have taken place since the mid-seventies in the global economy and in world politics. To change this situation we must stop and reverse the unfavorable trends experienced in the respective developments of our nations, and must increase the rate of development and strengthen the international position of the socialist community.

The latest congresses of the sister parties signify progress in working out appropriate national strategies responsive to the new situation and to the new challenges. Our Party viewed the 27th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party as an extraordinary event from the standpoint that both the general rules of socialism, and national features and peculiarities prevailed simultaneously and consistently. Also, the experiences of other sister parties confirm that since socialism is being built for the historically foreseeable future within national and state boundaries, national factors must be taken into consideration at levels commensurate with their significance, in strengthening cooperation among socialist nations.

In our judgment, the conditions now exist for cooperation to adjust to the changed circumstances in every field of social and economic life, and for raising the standard of cooperation among our countries to higher levels within a short period of time. Cooperation must be built consistently on the principles of independence, equality, non-interference in each others' internal affairs, and a mutual sense of responsibility for the common cause. These principles, must be coupled at all times with a respect for the interests and experiences of others, and with the recognition of mutual interdependence, of course. Otherwise it is precisely the national interest that is to be represented that suffers. It becomes isolated from the common trend. But on the basis of the dialectic relationship of national and international interests we also must see clearly that a common trend cannot be successfully represented--irrespective of how prophetic goals it declares--unless it coincides with the national interests of countries participating in the cooperative endeavour.

In regards to the development of cooperation, today's most important task is to find, through joint effort, processes and mechanisms that conform to the previously mentioned principles and are suitable to effectively reconcile national interests--in order to produce a truly common trend. Last November's working session of the first secretaries and the executive secretaries of the CEMA sister parties represents an important step in this direction.

At present, the modernization of cooperation is most urgent in the economic field. Several sister party congresses raised the idea of changing the CEMA

cooperative form, especially in the interest of accelerating scientific and technological development. It also appears as indispensable to rid ourselves from the routine, bureaucratic features of CEMA's work. The scientific and technological development program for CEMA nations, up to the year 2000, opened the door to advancement with respect to a number of strategically important issues. But if we take a closer look at the actual program details, we are once again confronted with concerns that are all too familiar. This too calls attention to the fact that it is not sufficient to designate goals and tasks--one also has to provide for the implementing tools and mechanisms.

Experience shows that governmental means by themselves are insufficient. We must create an interest base that produces economies for each cooperating partner, one that permits anticipated expenses and profits to be measured and planned. There are signs that suggest that the establishment of economic conditions for cooperation within CEMA can no longer be delayed. These conditions must take into consideration the pricing system, the financial, accounting and credit systems, the issue of the management of common funds, joint investments, the financing of joint enterprises, and the distribution of economic accomplishments. We know very well that these issues are complicated and that they directly impinge upon the interests and the economic mechanisms of individual member nations. But if we avoid dealing with these issues in the future also, we will hardly be able to bring about a change by making CEMA cooperation more effective.

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The increased role of cultural and humanitarian cooperation in international politics is supported by countless factors. The lessons learned from the Cultural Forum of Budapest and from other international conferences convince us that socialist countries can show significant results in this area, and that they can deal with these issues offensively. Strengthening our cooperation in this respect may also reveal some new reserves.

The fact that nationalities and national minorities reside in certain parts of our countries is a historical fact that presents a circumstance and an element in our mutual relationships. This is an important fact, one that must not be underestimated. As Hungarians we attribute an especially large significance to this fact, because, as is well known, Europe's largest national minority is Hungarian.

Our experiences in this respect suggest that one must start out by saying that the existence of nationalities does not necessarily prolong the inherited elements of lack of confidence. To the contrary: because of the dual ties of nationalities, they may become connecting links between our countries, our nations that build socialism, that work hard to strengthen diverse fields of cooperation. It then becomes a joint responsibility to allow the favorable opportunity implicit in this situation prevail. This, above all, hinges on the political will of the parties and of the governments. A constructive approach that serves mutual interests with Yugoslavia regarding this issue is commendable. We have positive experiences in the Hungarian-Czechoslovakian relationship also.

Considering the practice, one may conclude that the nationalities issue is not merely a country's internal affair. It is a problem that reaches even beyond cooperation among socialist nations, one that has both regional and European continental contexts. It is for this reason that the interests of socialist cooperation and of increased international attraction to socialism can be served, our long-fought-for position in the European process may be strengthened, and our foreign policy endeavours may be made credible only if in regards to this issue we conduct ourselves in a civilized and humane manner, upholding to the fullest extent the clear principles of Lenin's policies regarding nationalities. Such conduct must view the obligations contained in international agreements as minimums, and must stand up against nationalism, and in particular against some crude forms of nationalism, such as chauvinistic agitation, deprivation of rights and forced assimilation. We must constantly pay attention to the guaranty, maintenance and continuous expansion of the individual and collective rights of nationalities. This should serve as a good starting point for us to reject frequent accusations we hear, and to take the initiative before international bodies in this respect.

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According to the lessons learned from our most recent Congress, several of our sister parties seek in a creative manner the appropriate means and forms of building a new society. We view this as a natural feature of socialist construction. While working on the continued reform of economic management and social guidance, we are paying significant attention to our sister parties, finding ways to utilize their experiences.

Within the cooperative endeavours of our parties, one of today's most important tasks is to establish a high level theoretical generalization of the experiences of the new phase of social development, to analyze the way common rules manifest themselves under today's circumstances and social needs, and at the same time to explore peculiar national features--all this starting from the principles of Marxism-Leninism. In doing so, we must rid ourselves from ideological and political dogmas whose time has passed, from theoretical theses that were proven to be incorrect, or from others which were appropriate before, but have since been surpassed. Our theories must receive an unprejudiced fresh look; we must recreate these theories by analyzing the real situation according to the needs of our age. We must make the theories suitable so that we understand and change the practice. To accomplish this we must also renew the style and form of the diverse cooperation that exists between our parties.

One recognition continues to hold valid: in our day and age, socialist countries can best help increase the progressive forces of society and the attraction to socialism if they successfully resolve the daily tasks of social and economic development and scientific and technological progress, if they accelerate economic development consistent with qualitative and efficiency criteria, and if they develop a democratic character to social life. The renewal, further development and the raising of the standards of cooperation may greatly enhance the fulfillment of these tasks.

PARTY AFFAIRS, ACTIVITY COMMISSION MEETS

Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 16 Dec 86 p 1

[Article by Anna Pawlowska: "Questions For the Primary Party Organizations -- What You Are -- What You Can Be"]

[Text] Just what are the primary party organizations (POP) doing these days? Which of their functions are they correctly fulfilling and which are being carried out only superficially? What hinders and helps the improvement of POP work?

Party life is facing a great number of such questions. After all, it is the POP's that determine the party's ability to act and lead society. For that very reason, the 10th Congress ordered the Central Committee to devote a special session to the problem of POP work. The Politburo decided to prepare for this plenum by issuing a questionnaire to all POP's.

The first working version of this questionnaire was the chief topic of discussion at a meeting of the Central Committee Commission for Internal Party Affairs and the Commission on Party Activities in Representative Organs and Government on 15 December. The meeting was chaired by Politburo Member and Central Committee Secretary Jozef Baryla. Following a discussion which produced many observations and addenda, a draft was approved and then sent off for further work.

The next point in the meeting was discussion of a draft for a system for comparative evaluation of the activities of provincial party organizations. This plan is the latest practical step in the party reporting system which was modified by the last Central Committee and which is supposed to provide sufficient preliminary data for objective assessment of all party organizations.

It was recommended that 1987 be treated as an experimental year and that once the first results come in, work be undertaken to perfect the system. Stanislaw Gabrielski, the director of the Central Committee Political and Organizational Department, presented an introduction for both points.

At the conclusion to the meeting, the commission adopted a work plan for the coming year and its 7-member presidium was chosen.

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PZPR REPORT-BACK CAMPAIGNS 'OPEN STYLE', PROBLEMS NOTED

Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 9 Dec 86 p 3

[Article by Waldemar Sobiecki: "Transvaluation"]

[Excerpts] The new challenges that the growth in civilization pose our society requires a transvaluation of our attitude toward many political phenomena and ideas. An attempt to look at the recently-concluded report-back campaign in the PZPR from this perspective may help one formulate a few conclusions.

This campaign differed from its predecessors. It was preceded by the 10th PZPR Congress which constituted the start for a new way of thinking in the party and carried this impulse down through the ranks to the meetings of the nearly 30,000 primary party organizations [POP]. The goal of this general party discussion was ongoing specification of the themes of the PZPR program and the implementation in the provinces, cities and communities and factories, institutions and production divisions of the tasks defined as the most necessary and urgent ones by the party's supreme forum. This variant seems to have been the one most properly chosen because it has directing thinking into more specific channels and provided a free field for the search for new and fresh concepts and an unconventional approach to many general problems.

How have party members utilized this ability?

Most certainly, they have done so in different ways and with different results. There were certainly also others like the party members at the Gorzow Slawana Plant. A GAZETA LUBUSKA reporter described the course of the party conference there and wrote that it was conducted according to "outline number one". He went on to say that in the statements made from the tribunal, "it was not hard to feel that the speakers were not putting all of their cards on the table and that many things were left unsaid, perhaps because everyone had been so carefully orchestrated".

Fortunately, there are not many such cases. The new way of thinking is clearly finding its way into the party establishments. Even at the conference held at Slawana, there was one honest member who rejected the salon form of discussion and spoke out on what disturbed his party conscience. And what about the stormy criticism of the Turoszow miners disturbing the peace of the

mine director? And the concern for their plant expressed by the party members at the Starachowice Truck Factory? In these discussions, all formalities were thrown out, efforts were made to root out the causes of problems and work creatively and self-critically to find solutions.

Where does one find these areas of dissatisfaction and therefore of growth, greater democracy, social discipline, the second stage of economic reform, civil initiative and rational legal solutions? It is easy to say that these are the subjects of great discussions taking place in Poland recently but on the scale of the individual factory or community, the discussions are less than frank and clothed in splendid-sounding language. How many good arguments have there been for job certification and how much has been said about that during party conference? And later, at the Lubin Copper Mines, they take certification to mean simple masking and an entire army of paper-shufflers becomes installed there in "physical" jobs.

The greatest number of expectations are clearly connected with economic reform. There has not been a conference at which anyone expressed any concern for its future. People were told to be more consistent and stubborn in following the new rules. Responsibility for the failures of reform was laid at the feet of conservatives in the administrative apparatus, that is, the people who try to preserve their own influence and rights at any cost. People often spoke bitterly about that. "Human complacency and mental laziness are the greatest barriers to realization of the 10th Congress's decrees," according to Leon Klonowski, a worker from the Gdansk Ship Repair Yards during a plant conference. From the perspective of the factory or rural community, the collision between theory and practice is more painful than at higher levels of administration.

One of the main themes of discussion was the issue of the party's presence in various levels of management, its role in the decision-making process and its responsibility for the cultivation of correct relations between the government and society and between plant management and workers. How can we reconcile the party's inspirational and controlling role in the factories to the growth of worker self-management? Should the party become one of the elements of worker democracy by allowing its members to participate in various self-management organs or should it stand by the wayside? During discussions in Zeran, it was said that "direct democracy is every worker's participation in the issues of his place of employment. For party members, this is a special moral and civil responsibility". Thus, the predominant view was that self-management should not be a heavily-institutionalized organization controlled by a narrow group of individuals but an authentic form of representation for worker opinion. Only then will it function as a partner in decision-making instead of tripping up the director as it often does.

The experiences of the 1980's which are still very much alive in our memories, remain a unique lesson in political thinking and have also forced us to find answers for many fundamental questions have also changed the party and its political situation. Now, a declaration to join the party is synonymous with assuming extra responsibilities. In other words, many people now see joining the party as a means of helping to create new and more humanistic values. Many people? During a town and community party conference in Staporow,

candidate-memberships were given to 28 new party members, the overwhelming majority of which were not yet 30 years old. There are still many more such cases.

The course of the report-back campaigns has shown that there is still another new trend and this is the unique fervor that has overtaken the 30-40 age group of engineers and technicians as well as managers who see in the program of the 10th Congress an opportunity for them to realize their own ambitions for rebuilding economic structures. These are the people that have set the tone for most of the discussions during plant conferences. They are the most inspired spokesmen for reform and they are the people that demand self-management, the right to take risks, openness toward individual initiative and rationalism at every step of the way. Their years of experience with economic reality, an understanding of economic mechanisms and an unquenchable drive to act all inspire thought. It seems that it would be unforgivable to block the drive felt by these people because human capital can never be recovered once it is lost. And is it not a shortage of rational thinking that afflicts most painfully these days?

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ACTIVISTS DISCUSS WAYS OF EXPANDING PARTY ROLE

Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 10 Dec 86 p 3

[Article by Zbigniew Maciag: "Getting Through to the Party Rank and File"; roundtable discussion]

[Excerpts] In accordance with a resolution of the 10th PZPR Congress, the main weight of party work is being gradually shifted to the primary organizations. Their ideological life is therefore being enriched, discipline is enhanced and activity is being increased.

At places of work, the primary party organizations are increasingly becoming a political force that compels efficient production and mobilizes people to work more productively. However, many organizations still fail to function in an active and independent manner and fight against waste and bad work. Why is that? What is preventing efficient and effective action? Why is it often so difficult to accomplish something? We presented these questions to comrades from the Batory Steel Mill in Chorzow: Kazimierz Plonka, 1st secretary of the Primary Party Organization [POP] of the Heavy Sheet Metal Rolling Mill and member of the PZPR provincial committee, Henryk Puchlopek, member of the PZPR plant committee's executive board, Roman Lysikowski, 1st secretary of the thermal division's POP and Eryk Pietrzynski, 2nd secretary of the PZPR plant committee. Here are their answers.

[Eryk Pietrzynski] I think that the weakness, passiveness and apathy of the party groups is what hinders effective action. Unfortunately, they are not where ideas are born, lively discussions are held or where views are exchanged. Our primary task is to revitalize their activities. We must return to regular rather than occasional meetings of the party groups. We cannot only meet to elect party officials or during some important political campaign because that alone will not bring about the desired results or activate the party rank and file. It is also very important to raise the prestige of the representatives of the division and plant management and the secretaries of the plant committee.

[Roman Lysikowski: We continue to lack stamina and consistency in our actions. We are unable to implement many decisions. We satisfy ourselves with getting things only halfway done and we do not think about the future. This lack of consistency is associated with our inefficient realization of resolutions and

recommendations which is the result of our overconcentrating our efforts and resources on preparing certain programs or resolutions and forgetting how we are going to monitor their execution.

I think that the POP's must devote more attention to working with youth at their jobs. After all, it is the young people that are the future of our party because in a few years, they will be the party.

[Eryk Pietrzynski] The next important issue is the giving of party functions to the right people during the current reports and elections campaign. These must be energetic and capable people with initiative, people who can guarantee that they will carry out the tasks entrusted to them. It is no secret that in the difficult and controversial atmosphere at the start of the 1980's, many random and inexperienced comrades became party officials. Some of them did not prove themselves to be good leaders and now they must leave. Thus, the selection of a committed and hard-working aktiv is what will determine how effectively party decisions are implemented on all levels, from the party groups to the plant committee.

We also need a new style of party work, one which is based on collegial principles that will give every party member the right to speak out and criticize or make recommendations.

[Henryk Puchlopek] The POP's can also gain greater authority and importance if they help the division managers, trade unions and worker self-management councils to resolve current economic and social problems. We want for every party organization to make itself visible in the production division and to inspire positive action.

[Eryk Pietrzynski] The preparation of programs and resolutions must be improved because they are not always specific enough nor do they always set deadlines for the realization of certain decisions. It is sometimes the case that they are not addressed to any specific group and that makes it hard to see them carried out. Furthermore, there are just too many of them. At the Batory Steel Works, all of our resolutions are prepared at the grass-roots level. We gather opinions from individual organizations and then these as the basis for a resolution. In this way, the prepared resolution makes its way into the POP where it is quite simply broken down into its principal components so that some but unfortunately not all party members individually receive specific tasks for fulfillment.

[Henryk Puchlopek] We want to work within a broad aktiv rather than limit ourselves to a small group of people. We cannot lose sight of the average party member and his problems and concerns in our realization of party decisions and therefore, everyone should participate. That is one of the fundamental requirements for effective action.

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PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIVE GROUP INSTALLED

Krakow GAZETA KRAKOWSKA in Polish 6 Jan 87 pp 1,2

[Article by [wisz]: "Meeting of the Tarnow Consultative Group -- Their Voice Will Count in the Making of the Most Important Decisions"]

[Text] (Own information) In accordance with the resolution of the 10th PZPR Congress, party committees can set up consultative groups whose voice will count in the making of the most important political and social decisions. Thus, the Tarnow Provincial PZPR Committee has set up its own Provincial Consultative Group of 75 workers and farmers. Yesterday, the members of this group met with the secretaries of the provincial PZPR committee and First Secretary Wladyslaw Plewniak who chaired this inaugural session.

Wladyslaw Plewniak said: "We want your advice and opinions on the most important political and economic issues such as how to activate reserve production potential, improve quality, produce more export goods and how to intensify agricultural production. We will also be asking you what is holding back the establishment of a public agreement. We will use all of your opinions and observations when we are adopting resolutions during plenary sessions of the provincial committee. Let our meetings be characterized by sincerity and openness".

Later in the meeting, PZPR Provincial Committee Secretary Janusz Ilcewicz informed the participants about the basic working principles of the group. In order for group members to not have to spend too much time travelling and going to meetings, they will be allowed to submit written consultations on the basis of documents and materials sent to them. The members then heard detailed information on Tarnow Province's social and economic plan for 1987 with regard to investment conditions and trends. Since the most important barrier to the growth of housing construction is a shortage of builders, the Construction Complex has received from the provincial budget a sum of 700 million zlotys for expansion of the Housing Works and the firm of Inzynieria has received 300 million zlotys. The remaining construction firms of Instal and Chemobudowa also received 300 million zlotys. Enormous sums have also been allotted for agriculture and especially for soil improvement. Irrigation will be introduced at land reclamation projects. Dr Jan Reszetnik, who is in charge of these projects, informed listeners that by 1992, all of the towns in

Tarnow Province will have water-treatment plants, sewage systems and waste-treatment plants with a 95-percent level of treatment efficiency.

During the meeting, PZPR Provincial Committee Secretary Jan Karkowski presented information on preparations for the PZPR Provincial Committee's plenum on cultural issues in the province.

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PARTY DAILY EDITORIAL ON TU CONGRESS

Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 5 Dec 86 p 1

[Unattributed article: "A Challenge For Us Too"]

[Text] At its Tuesday meeting, the Politburo discussed and praised the course and substance of the Congress of the Reborn Polish Trade Unions. The Politburo also reminded, and not for the first time, all party members of their duty to participate in the union movement and ordered the party members in worker self-management councils, government and economic administration to reach the proper conclusions from the statements made at the congress.

At the congress, unionists did not mince their words about department and factory directors, planning measures and on-the-spot economic decisions, the social activities of enterprises and the state's housing policy. neither the party, its regional organizations nor its factory organizations were criticized in this regard. Is that good or bad?

It is good if the unionists really had no reasons to be critical of the party but bad if they felt that the party could not intervene effectively in these issues. While these issues are still controversial, it would be worthwhile for each party instance and factory organization to find answers to these problems.

Much is often said about disputes and conflicts or at least misunderstandings between the trade unions and worker self-management. At the congress, the unions spoke out unequivocally against all possible attempts to undermine worker self-management. We can therefore assume that these two structures for worker self-organization have found a mode of coexistence. We also have the right to acknowledge that the factory party organizations suffered many mishaps on the way to achieving such an arrangement.

It would be a good thing now if more efforts were made to achieve the necessary "normalization of relations" between the unions and worker self-management and factory directors which for the most part are also members of the factory party organizations. It is not a matter of anarchistic curtailment of the unquestioned authority of plant managers to direct production and see that workers fulfill their responsibilities but convincing personnel to see social activity not as an obstruction but a valuable help.

In particular, the party organizations in the ministries, associations and central government should concentrate their attention on analyzing union opinions. The phenomena condemned at the congress are also a bad reflection on the party organizations that failed to discern or react to them.

The Politburo has ordered all of us in the party to "use the congress's criticism as a means of bringing about constructive action".

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ACADEMIC RESEARCH ON 'WORKPLACE PATHOLOGY' PRESENTED

Warsaw WIADOMOSCI STATYSTYCZNE in Polish No 10, Oct 86 pp 1-4

[Article by Dr Irena Kolotkiewicz, Center for Statistical and Economic Research, Chief Statistical Bureau and Polish Academy of Sciences: "Statistical Studies -- Methods and Results -- Workplace Pathology -- Definition and Scope of Research"]

[Text] Overcoming unfavorable trends in economic and social life will make it possible to realize the principal assumptions of long-term plans for improving our country's situation. Therefore, it has been noticed, especially in the last few years, that there is increased interest in all of the factors that interfere with growth processes. For the first time, special attention has been paid to the social aspects of growth and the influence that factors other than economics have on the stimulation of growth and that is why there is now much concern over social pathology. A sharper interest in social pathology is an essential factor in how efficiently social policy is realized and in improving the quality of life in Poland.

The problems of social pathology have found themselves at the center of interest of many state institutions, social organizations and many academic communities. As an important task, the fight to control social pathology has been written into programs for national growth and responsible institutions and organizations have been ordered to make the necessary observations and take actions to control and prevent social pathology.

Official programs and statements most often include alcoholism, drug addiction, crime and broken families as signs of social pathology. Much less often is mention made of a type of social pathology whose negative effects most painfully make themselves felt in our economic life, in processes of social education and our international reputation.

This particular type of pathology is workplace pathology.

Workplace pathology is a widespread phenomenon and is much more common than the others named above. Most of society is either directly or indirectly affected by it.

Without defining just what workplace pathology is or is not at this time, it must still be said that its associated problems are a difficult subject for the social scientist to pursue. In a certain sense, this type of social pathology does not fall under the typical definition of social pathology whose chief characteristic is social disapproval of the individual that behaves in a socially pathological manner (J. Pawlowska, "Pojęcie dewiacji w teorii etykietowania" [The Concept of deviation in the theory of social labelling], *STUDIA SOCJOLOGICZNE*, No 1, 1985).

At the workplace, many symptoms that can be considered pathological, are not regarded negatively, because workers have become used to them. In spite of this tolerance, society has become very much threatened by workplace pathology. The situation can be defined by the following terse statement: "In the entire postwar period, the manpower shortage has never been as great as now. At the same time, enterprises and various institutions have never before had such great employee reserves. The waste of manpower has never been this great" (T. Grzeszczyk, "Lokalne i regionalne rynki pracy" [Local and regional labor markets], *GOSPODARKA PRZESTRZENNA POLSKI W CZORAJ, DZIS I JUTRO* (edited by A. Kulinski), Department of PAX Association Deputies and Advisors, Warsaw, 1985). If we therefore assume that "work is the fundamental principle organizing the life of the individual" (J. Chlopecki, "Praca największym dobrem czy złem koniecznym" [Work as the greatest good or as a necessary evil], Society for the Popularization of Knowledge, "Materiały do użytku wewnętrznego" [Materials for internal use]), then for economic, social and humanistic reasons, the problems of social pathology require strict scientific observation and study in order to take the necessary actions to reduce their threat.

An attempt has been made in the present article to define (formulate) workplace pathology and to therefore typify the phenomena that should fall under constant observation. There will also be described data that can be used to characterize the intensification of the signs of workplace pathology. The diversity of signs that the demand for information characterizing the problems of workplace pathology will be very extensive while any eventual studies in this area will be interdisciplinary in nature. The studies that have up to now been conducted chiefly by sociologists are now also falling within the sphere of interests of economists, economic planners (including regional planners), physicians, psychologists and administration, especially economic administration.

Causes For the Emergence of Workplace Pathology

Work is of great importance to man and is more than a means of providing the material basis for existence because it also defines an individual's personality, gives him a chance to be creative, establish his position in

society and in the family and sets his choice of marriage partner and friends. Through one's work, a person wishes to achieve values consistent with his personal desires and his material and social existence associated with his coexistence with other people. Therefore, work gives a person an opportunity for self-realization, personal growth, initiative and activity (K. Hirszel, "Systemy motywacyjne w przedsiębiorstwie" [Motivational systems in the enterprise], HUMANIZACJA PRACY, No 2, 1985). The second and social value of work is gaining ever-greater importance in modern societies.

The positive role played by work in the life of the individual and that of the entire nation is unquestionable. It is therefore necessary to ask oneself why people so often neglect their work, do it poorly and see it as a regrettable necessity.

The greatest portion of one's nominal work time should be applied to earnest and regulated production or service. The measure of the efficiency of this work is the amount and quality of produced goods and services (W. Ston, "Czynniki wzrostu wydajności pracy" [Factors in the growth of work productivity], EKONOMIKA I ORGANIZACJA PRACY, No 12, 1985). Analysis of the results of our work, especially in comparison with the achievements of other nations, shows that we produce fewer and worse goods than other the societies with which we usually compare ourselves (J. Rejkowski, "System kontroli nad działalnością produkcyjną" [System for control of production activity], from "Przemiany systemu pracy w PRL w latach 1982-2000" [Changes in the labor system of the Polish People's Republic in the years 1982-2000], Polish Academy of Sciences, the "Poland 2000" Committee for Research and Prognosis]. In Poland, the entire range of services from communal and trade services to education, health care and recreation, function worse than in the majority of other developed nations. We produce too little and too shoddily, are unable to quickly modernize products, poorly organize our work and inefficiently realize too-often reformed concepts for the organization of services and there are various reasons why this is so. Aside from historical conditions, they are worse production tools, technological backwardness, poor management of resources and low work efficiency (See J. Rejkowski, "System kontroli...") and these conditions have been brought about by material shortages that have produced an unsatisfactory level of public life and a poorer standard of living than the public expects. This has also diminished our chances for closing the gap in civilization and culture that separates us from highly-developed nations.

The most important element that determines the quality and efficiency of work at a given technological level is man (See W. Ston, "Czynniki wzrostu..."). Therefore, the factor that must cause the greatest amount of alarm is the efficiency (in quantitative and qualitative terms) of our work at blue-collar and non blue-collar workplaces.

The greatest influence on the quality of work is exerted by the work attitudes of employees and this in turn is determined by the set of physical and psychological conditions under which the work is performed (W. Ston, "Czynniki

wzrostu..."). We can list a number of subjective and objective factors affecting work attitudes, we can include (D. Dobrowolska, "Studia nad znaczeniem pracy dla człowieka" [Studies on the meaning of work for man], Ossolineum, 1974).

The objective factors are:

- the functioning system of work motivations (both earnings and opportunities for advancement);
- work organization (including the work rhythm, materials and energy supply and efficiency of repair services);
- the comfort (or discomfort) of the workplace (working conditions, work safety);
- the management style that compels (or fails to compel) work efficiency;
- the feeling (or lack of feeling) of any importance or sense in one's work;
- the professional training one has received from his or her education.

The subjective conditions that shape work attitudes depend on the society's moral level. The moral level of society determines how positive people feel toward their work and that is characterized by a feeling of responsibility, a serious attitude, conscientiousness, care, effort and a feeling of attachment to one's job and place of employment rather than just passive performance of duties. In other words, people that have a positive attitude toward work like their jobs and see them as an important part of their lives. In other words, a person for whom work is only a matter of money will work differently than one who understands the dignity and innate value of work (K. Hirszel, "Systemy motywacyjne...").

In searching for the causes of workplace pathology and evaluating human attitudes in order to qualify them within certain categories of deviation, we must determine the degree to which poorly functioning work processes are the result of personal shortcomings of the people involved in these processes and which are part of our own national character as well as the degree to which they are the result of poorly organized systems and cause people to adapt themselves to the existing conditions (M. Ziolkowski, "Jak badać dynamikę i konflikt w społeczeństwie polskim" [How to study dynamics and conflict in Polish society], STUDIA SOCJOLOGICZNE, No 2, 1985).

It is especially important to consider the degree to which individual and public goals coincide because the best motivation to work is when both do concur. "To a great extent, an efficiently functioning social system depends on such an organization of effort that individuals acting to satisfy their own needs also contribute to the realization of the goals of the system as a whole" (M. Ziolkowski, "Jak badać dynamikę...", p 18). Furthermore, for work

to fulfill its desired function both in social growth as well as in the development of the human personality, it must be properly evaluated and rewarded. This means that workers must be given the chance to satisfy their own needs and those of their families. At the same time, it is necessary to pay for work in accordance with the amount of effort and skill put into it and in accordance with the principles of a socialist society" (Z. Skorny, "Funkcja pracy w zaspokajaniu potrzeb i rozwoju osobowosci" [The Function of work in satisfying needs and the development of the personality], HUMANIZACJA PRACY, No 3, 1985, p 12). Insufficient consideration of the importance of factors that stimulate "good work" causes a very reluctant attitude toward work, even among people with highly-developed moral judgement and work ethic because according to the theory of expectation, "individual behavior (the tendency to act) is determined by the two factors of the attractiveness of the expected results of an action and the subjective probability that the given action will produce these results" (L.V. Vroom, "Work and Motivation", New York, 1964. W. Porter and E.E. Lawler, "Managerial Attitudes and Performance Homeword", R.D. Irvin, 1968).

Considering the problems of workplace pathology from a point of view of the causes of low work efficiency, we must also look at the individual implications that, due to moral factors, cause people to neglect their jobs as well as imperfections in the mechanisms used to compel the efficient use of work time and better work discipline and organization. The dual nature of the causes of workplace pathology requires consideration of the fact in the formulation, definition and set scope of the range of research dedicated to this problem.

Definition of Workplace Pathology

In a persons's participation in the work process, there may appear unfavorable phenomena that affect both the organization and performance of work. These negative phenomena that adversely affect work results are called workplace pathology. This term is very broad in its concepts and is used in different contexts. It seems best to define workplace pathology in such a way as to include as much as possible the greatest range negative elements in the work process and to outline the fields of observation for phenomena that lower work results. Such a definition can provide a basis for providing a framework for the applied system of data in this area (including statistical data) and will also make it possible to direct research toward specific problems.

The formulation of a definition of workplace pathology and the stating the phenomena included within this term is not only difficult but also controversial because as I stated in the introduction to this article, the phenomena of workplace pathology do not fall easily under the classical sociological definitions of pathological behavior. Schur's classic definition (E.M. Schur, "Labelling Deviant Behavior", New York, 1971) of pathological phenomena is as follows:

"Human behavior is perverse to the extent that it causes a person to reject the normal expectations of some group and causes interpersonal or collective reactions aimed at 'isolating' the person who behaves in such a manner and at 'correcting' that person".

With regard to the serious shortcomings (both quantitative and qualitative) of a person's participation in the work process, it does not seem enough to define pathological phenomena solely as behavior that causes a negative reaction from other people because such a definition fails to take account of public indifference, silence and sometimes even acceptance of attitudes that have a negative effect on work processes. Furthermore, many negative phenomena that affect an individual's attitude toward work cannot be blamed on any single person or circumstance and the anonymity of many bad decisions often make it impossible to evaluate the person or persons responsible for such decisions.

In formulating a definition of workplace pathology, it is necessary to examine the problem from every angle. The question arises of whether the signs of social pathology are also to include violations of the work ethic in which certain individuals have not become adapted to the the work situation and society's general moral norms (St. Jędrzejewski, "Dlaczego zle pracujemy" [Why we work poorly], ZARZADACIE, No 4, 1963).

We must also consider whether we will be chiefly concerned with clear violations of the law such as theft, disappearance of property at the place of work, drunkenness at the place of work, unjustified absences and arbitrary abandonment of work.

Should we define workplace pathology in much broader terms to include the collapse of the work ethic which is understood as the general orientation of a given culture and lifestyle of a given society and its accepted hierarchy of values oriented toward work (St. Jędrzejewski, "Dlaczego zle pracujemy")?

Should workplace pathology also include phenomena that have a detrimental effect on work quality although they do not constitute any violation of any laws or regulations and therefore lack of personal commitment, minimal work effort, lack of innovation, preferring free time to the opportunity to earn money, excessive absences for illness, etc?

Thus, we can examine the problems of social pathology in their behavioral aspect and study the appearance in the work process of behaviors that do not coincide with established legal norms or work customs. However, we can also examine these problems in relation to psychological factors and certain emotional states that affect one's attitude toward work such as apathy, frustration and lack of commitment.

If we are to define the the phenomena of workplace pathology with regard to their effects, we can consider the economic aspect and therefore study the phenomena that reduce the actual results of work and produce a lower output or

poorer quality of goods and services. We can also consider the social aspects of workplace pathology, that is, the desperation of extra-economic work values in the life of man and the diminishment of work's educational and cultural role.

Finally, the question arises of whether workplace pathology should be considered in terms of deviation of individuals, of entire social groups (organized or unorganized) or even the state as the institution organizing the processes of social and economic development.

Therefore, should workplace pathology also include the symptoms of an improper attitude toward work on the part of individuals and their subsequent failure to satisfy their work responsibilities in their given place of employment? Should workplace pathology also include disruptions in motivational systems and work organization caused by the poor functioning of individuals (institutions) responsible for properly regulating work processes and setting up correct work systems?

The fact that "modern man lives and works often completely within the framework of large organizations and all professions are controlled by these organizations" (J. Mucna, "Jak badać dynamikę i stabilność społeczeństwa polskiego" [How to study dynamics and stability in Polish society], *STUDIA SOCJOLOGICZNE*, Nos 3-4, 1985) suggests that not only should individuals be observed but that also social groups and institutions responsible for systems regulating the work process and also the functioning of the state as the organ holding a monopoly on decisions affecting the society as a whole. The functioning and inter-relations between various spheres and subsystems (such as material production and services) should also be evaluated (J. Mucna, "Jak badać dynamikę...").

There is also great significance in the controversial problem of determining the threshold between normal disfunctions in the life of individuals and groups and deviate behavior which has a detrimental effect on work processes and the processes of social and economic growth. Definition of this quantitative and qualitative threshold between insignificant disruptions and workplace pathology is especially important to the organization of actions to prevent material and moral losses.

The questions and doubts concerning a definition of workplace pathology will continue to multiply and most are most certainly determined by the profession of the individual presenting them.

Considering the diversity of the causes of negative phenomena in the work process and the very extensive material and moral effects that these phenomena have, workplace pathology should be defined in broad enough terms to include the entire gamut of negative aspects of an individual's participation in the work process. It is also necessary for such a definition to make it possible to eliminate the anonymous character of many pathological activities. It should not just identify the transgressors and ignore the causes of such

behavior when all "objective conditions" that lead to workplace pathology are brought about when the persons or institutions responsible for regulating (in both the general and specific sense) the work processes act in a manner detrimental to the public interest.

Thus, workplace pathology should include the disruptions to the work process caused by an individual's involvement in that process that also have socially and economically detrimental repercussions and harm society's moral infrastructure. Therefore, behaviors that constitute workplace pathology are not classified on the basis of negative evaluation toward behavior by the environment but on the basis of evident and measurable (also statistically) negative effects that human actions have on the work process. In contrast to sociological approaches, such a depersonalized and "economic" approach to defining workplace pathology may perhaps provide a better opportunity to answer the question of just how "sick" work is (in the words of General Jaruzelski during discussion at the 10th PZPS Congress). This definition should also make it easier to conduct research in such a way as to determine the extent to which workplace pathology is the result of a collapse of the work ethic and a reaction to bad objective conditions for regulating the work process.

Observation of the Phenomena of Workplace Pathology

It is possible to take measures to eliminate the causes of workplace pathology and to control its effects once signs of deviation have been identified in the work process and once there is established the relationship between a person and his or her work, between the work and working conditions and between the work and its final results.

The cause-and-effect relationship in a work process can be broken down as follows: person -- work -- working conditions -- work results.

One must have credible factual and graphic material to determine the laws governing the work process, to find the weakest points in that process and to formulate evaluations and hypotheses.

It is necessary to carefully observe the entire system starting with man and his attitude toward work and ending with the social and economic results of that work and how it affects the situation of the entire nation. These should be continuous observations that make it possible to quickly catch moments in which quantitative and qualitative boundaries are crossed with profound social and economic repercussions. Without systematic study of potential danger areas, it is not possible to signal the growing danger and correctly assess the situation (J. Wodz, "Potrzeba systematycznych badan zjawisk dezorganizacji społecznej," [The Need for systematic study of phenomena of social disorganization], RUCH PRAWNICZY, EKONOMICZNY I SPOLECZNY, 4th quarter, 1985).

As a basis for reaching correct conclusions, observation of work processes requires close cooperation between institutions created to gather the relevant

data and individuals using this data for analytical and practical purposes.

The degree of danger posed by workplace pathology should be characterized:

-- with the help of objective standards that in a specific and comparable way characterize a person's participation in the work process (as well as his action on behalf of the proper functioning of the work process) and make it possible to evaluate results and make comparisons between regions, social groups and branches of industry, etc.;

-- with the help of subjective standards that illustrate the attitude toward work of individuals, social groups and of society and present opinions on the subject of motivational systems, working conditions, work organization, etc.

It is possible to obtain a set of objective data from statistical studies carried out by the Chief Statistical Bureau and other such institutions. There is much knowledge that can be gained from statistical research but this also makes it necessary to further formulate one's information needs and try to obtain that data through statistical research of a complete statistical group or through representative studies. It is more complicated to produce objective measures through polling. The cost of such research is relatively high and polls are furthermore conducted by various institutions for their own purposes and this often makes it impossible to compare their results. It is also generally impossible to relate this information to statistical data which limits its usefulness for practical purposes or the formulation of general laws and principles.

The data necessary to systematic evaluation of workplace pathology can be grouped into thematic blocks. The standard for an individual's participation in the work process is:

-- work productivity;

-- quality of production measured in the quantity and value of returned defective items, quantity of production honored with the seal of quality and amount of unjustified costs and losses, etc.;

-- use of work time with special consideration of unjustified absences, time spent not working due to stoppages and excessive sick leave;

-- personnel turnover and especially arbitrary abandonment of work and (specifically under our conditions) and lay-offs from the place of employment;

-- attitude toward the property at one's place of work and especially theft, waste of materials, tools and work clothes;

-- the approach to work measured in terms of innovation (inventions, patents, etc.);

-- drunkenness on and off the job.

For the above problems, one can find a considerable amount of data from statistical sources. These are undoubtedly formal measures that do not fully fit the given situation and that is why it is necessary to find ways of formulating other objective standards and gaining information from polls in order to comprehensively characterize man's participation in work and the anomalies that lead to workplace pathology.

Aside from man's participation in the work process, careful analysis should also be made of the elements of the work system and circumstances that fall under the broad label of working conditions because these factors have a decisive influence on work attitudes and the educational functions of employment. The spheres that should be constantly observed for the eventual appearance of pathological phenomena are:

-- the wage system and its motivational effects in relation to the pricing system, the possibilities of wages to satisfy needs on a publicly accepted level and the fairness of the wage system;

-- systems of advancement;

-- the ecology of the place of work measured as the job accident rate, the frequency of harmful working conditions (especially when not compensated by higher wages), the rate of job-related illness and permanent injury;

-- the use and distribution of skilled workers;

-- the organization of work within the place of employment and the organization of services outside of the place of employment;

-- interpersonal relations at the place of employment including the correctness of administrative and social actions;

-- the realization of social justice at the place of work and the honoring of worker rights.

To a large extent, factors motivating work can also be found outside of the place of employment and these include housing conditions, level of health care and the family situation.

A great amount of information characterizing working conditions can be gained from statistical studies. It is found in various branches of statistics which causes some concern that such data cannot be easily compared and may perhaps limit any possibility for comprehensively evaluating working conditions, especially when one considers the possibility that such evaluations could be disaggregated in regional terms.

An integral problem connected with workplace pathology is the control system used to compel work efficiency. This system which can contribute much to the emergence of pathology should fulfill the following conditions:

- clearly state the control criteria and make them permanent in nature;
- make participants to the work process aware of the fact that they are safe against material and social failure as long as they fulfill fundamental work regulations;
- create the hope among workers that they can improve their own welfare by acting in accordance with regulations (J. Rejowski, "System kontroli...").

Aside from the routine control found in any place of employment which may vary according to the type of production or service, then depending on the systems concepts used on the macro-level, there should also be observed the system of economic control used outside of the workplace and such control consists of:

- a properly functioning consumer market;
- limitation on the possibilities for obtaining income or goods outside of productive work;
- preservation of the proportion between the degree of productivity and the quantity of available goods;
- the impossibility of gaining social advancement outside of one's work (J. Rejowski, "System kontroli...").

Considering the complexity of control both at the place of employment and on the macro-scale (which is a problem requiring separate discussion) as well as the set of available data on this subject, it is especially difficult to reach conclusions about how effective control is in preventing workplace pathology. However, one can risk stating that without a thorough knowledge of the subject and especially an understanding of the effectiveness of control, any study of workplace pathology will be incomplete. It is therefore necessary to specify the need for relevant data.

It is unquestionably a difficult task to conduct research on workplace pathology according to the above suggestions and requires an interdisciplinary research team. However, it seems necessary to point out the enormous complexity of this problem and the need to approach it in a comprehensive manner. The complexity of the problem shows that effective organization and generalization of the knowledge on the subject makes it necessary to consider three elements during research and these are the nature of man's participation in the work process, working conditions and the efficiency of control. It is also necessary to apply economic standards to the classification of various phenomena as workplace pathology and to see them as categories of social interests.

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12261

CSD: 2600/408

KATOWICE MEETING FOCUSES ON STUDENT ISSUES

Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 19 Jan 87 p 3

[Article by Andrzej Rogalski: "Duties of Higher Schools -- Education Plus Knowledge"]

[Excerpts] It is said that as adults, students are mature individuals and already have an established attitude toward life and that this is based on specific values. If this is true, then does educational activity hold any promise or make any sense?

Nothing could be further from the truth. Young people expect the older generation to help them with their difficult problems and set a moral example for them to follow in their adult life. They also carefully observe their mistakes.

"Young students," said Professor Wladyslaw Jacher during a meeting at Silesian University, "most often take a passive stance in school life because they see too many institutionalized elements and declarations in educational programs. Only rarely is any consideration given the real needs of young people, their world of values or their serious problems. It is also a mistake that the school authorities and organizations so often expect young people to enter the existing structure without any conflicts or without wanting to change anything. If students do not act as expected, they say that 'students are irresponsible'. Feeling that they are perceived as 'sinners', students quickly become discouraged and withdraw into private life.

Other misunderstandings are caused by differences between the generations and opportunities for social advancement. Many academic teachers and persons working in school administration have achieved considerable material advancement and prestige in their lives and expect the present generation of students to do the same. Meanwhile, social structures have stabilized to a greater extent. Under these conditions, it is much harder to achieve as much as the older generation did. For that reason, the older generation feels that modern youth lack ambition while young intellectuals feel that education is a good thing in itself but contributes little to the fulfillment of one's plans

and dreams.

During the Katowice meeting [2nd National Meeting of PRON Representatives of Schools of Higher learning, organized at Silesian University in Katowice], attention was also directed toward other unfavorable phenomena. Many students have now act as if it is not their own beliefs that play a decisive role but circumstances and situations. Such "elasticity" benefits them more than originality, firm beliefs or finding one's own answers. At this moment, one might ask whether future directors, teachers etc. raised in this manner will act any differently.

Another problem is the activity of student organizations. Professor Michal Rosciszewski said that "at Silesian University, they are a valuable partner in the educational process throughout the entire school. However, aside from any real commitment in the positive sense of this word, one also sees opportunism and changing values motivated by incentives other than ideology. Such a situation leads not only to ideological and moral depravation but also affects how well one studies. As practice has shown, it sometimes pays more to be an "activist" than to finish one's education in time.

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2600/477

READER COMPLAINS OF SHORTAGE OF PRESCHOOLS

Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 10 Feb 87 p 4

[Letter to editors of RZECZPOSPOLITA by M.W. of Warsaw: "More Children and Fewer Pre-Schools"]

[Text] I am still on maternity leave, but I intend to go back to my job in the summer. It is not strange that I am interested in all of the regulations and social policy for helping working mothers. Unfortunately, it seems to me that social policy in this area is either incoherent or that the different ministers all have their own policy. Let me quote information from an article published in RZECZPOSPOLITA.

You inform your readers that there will really be little space in pre-schools in the 1987-88 school year (and what space there is may not be where it is really needed) and at the same time announced that the number of pre-schools would be reduced. It is easy to guess just what that means -- fewer children will be accepted. On the other hand, this encourages women to work because in the feminized professions, there has been a great surge in maternity leave.

The Education Minister justifies this decision by claiming that he wants to provide a better education to the children that are accepted but we wonder whether this is an appropriate decision at a time of economic trouble and when every pair of hands in production and service really counts. Should the number of pre-schools not be increased even if this does "minimalize" the program so that mothers can return to work? In this situation, all appeals to get people working amount to no more than empty words from another ministry, the ministry of labor and wages.

Every year, the newspapers are writing about what measures families must take to have their children accepted into a pre-school.

Therefore, I think that both employment policy and the policy on female employment are going their own separate ways. If the state wants us to work, then it should help us too. Such help would most certainly be provided by making it easier to get our children into pre-schools. I think that the plan to reduce the number of pre-schools will not be just my own problem. Why can I not decide for myself to go back to work rather than wait for some commission to accept my children into a pre-school?

BRIEFS

LEGNICA DEFENSE COMMITTEE MEETING—Yesterday, the Provincial Defense Committee met in Legnica and discussed the present social and political situation as well as the state of security and public order in the province. It was stated that the rate of common crimes is dropping because the rate of their apprehension has gone up. In January of this year, there were determined 374 crimes which is nearly 17 percent less than a year ago. [Text] [Wroclaw GAZETA ROBOTNICZA in Polish 23 Feb 87 p 5] 12261

OPOLE DEFENSE COMMITTEE MEETING—Tuesday's meeting of the Provincial Defense Committee was in a great extent dedicated to assessment of the activities of institutions and organizations participating in the patriotic and defense training of the public and especially of young people. During the discussion, it was stated that although the schools place their chief emphasis in patriotic indoctrination of youth of preparing young people for defense duties, social and youth organizations also have much to do in this regard. The great role of the National Defense League in the educational process was also underscored. Praising the present patriotic and defense training carried out by the respective organizations, the Provincial Defense Committee recommended further refinement of methods and substance in order to achieve better results. The members of the Provincial Defense Committee also received information about the current social and political situation and the state of public safety and order in the province. [Text] [Opole TRYBUNA OPOLSKA in Polish 23 Feb 87 p 1] 12261

GDANSK YIPPEE PLENUM CALLS FOR 'PATIENT LABOR'—Gdansk. "The realization of the resolution of the 3rd Plenum of the YIPPE Central Committee does not require the achievement of an immediate result but quite the contrary -- what is really needed is long and patient work, gradual achievement of realistic goals and stubborn work to improve the economy and eliminate all obstructions to its growth. The time has come to measure enterprises not by how much they produce but by their quality, market usefulness and technical value," said Wladyslaw Gontarski, a young Japanese from the Marine Trade Port in Gdynia, at the plenum of the Gdansk Provincial YIPPE Committee. During the plenum which was attended by Polishborn Member Gabriela Komblar, the performance of the 1986 social and economic tasks and the 1987 plan in the Gdansk coastal region were evaluated.

The meeting was chaired by Deputy Politburo Member and First Secretary of the PZPR Provincial Committee, Stanislaw Berger. [Excerpts] [Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 23 Feb 87 p 2] 12261

LUBLIN PZPR PLENUM URGES REFORM ACCELERATION--Lublin. "Realization of the 5-year plan will depend on further changes in the social and economic life of the province, accelerated processes of economic reform, discipline and better use of materials, resources and energy." This statement was included in a report read to the plenum session of the Provincial PZPR Committee that met in Lublin on 21 February and was also the guiding motif of that meeting. Representatives of the largest industrial establishments in the province described how the resolutions of the 10th PZPR Congress and the 3rd Central Committee Plenum were being realized in their communities. [Excerpt] [Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 23 Feb 87 p 2] 12261

CSO: 2800/477

CHURCH REACTION TO SECULAR YOUTH RITES EXAMINED

Cologne DEUTSCHLAND ARCHIV in German Vol 20 No 2, Feb 87 (signed to press 26 Jan 87) pp 168-180

[Article by Prof Dr Klemens Richter, director of the Department of Liturgical Studies at the Westphalian Wilhelms University in Muenster: "Youth Consecration and the Catholic Church"]

[Text] Youth Consecration as a Potential for Conflict

Since 1954, the year when the ceremony of youth consecration was introduced in the GDR, there have been a vast number of articles in East and West concerning this rite of passage and initiation rite, but hardly any fundamental scientific treatment of this topic has occurred. The reason for that may well be above all that youth consecration was almost exclusively regarded under the aspect of a struggle of the atheist state against the churches and their initiation rites of confirmation. What is involved here is no proprium of an atheistically shaped socialist industrial society. Thus a comprehensive study a decade ago has drawn attention to the more than a century-old tradition of youth consecration in Germany.¹ But it was only recently that a study was presented which traces a 30-year development of youth consecration in the GDR, which updates the important literature and publicizes a wealth of documents that are hardly accessible in the West.² As the subtitle makes it clear, the reactions of the Protestant churches are also documented and evaluated in this connection. To date nothing comparable is available for the Catholic Church. The only (not unproblematical) overall account of the Catholic Church in the GDR merely touches on the problem.³ Only one serious article on the part of theology is to be noted.⁴ However, especially under the aspect of the development of rites at important junctures in people's life in a secularized society, youth consecration would be an important object for comparative studies. Thus far it has hardly been acknowledged that special (simply liturgical) books are available for the ceremony of youth consecration, liturgies that describe and lay down not only sequences of the rites of the event but also offer statements on the preparation.

In the dispute between Catholic and Protestant churches on the one hand and the socialist state on the other hand, no conflict left behind "within the churches equally deep wounds as the long-term dispute regarding youth consecration, which--announced in 1954--as a firm component of the socialist educational process pursues the goal to bestow the character of creed to the ideological-atheistic shaping of the youth in the direction of Marxist-Leninism.... Although the wording of the pledge does not include any explicit formulation of denial of God and faith, the avowal of a total agreement of the individual with socialism is immanent in it, in other words the affirmation of a substantially unchristian way of life."⁶ This paraphrases exactly what has been the content of a dispute that has already lasted for over 38 years between the churches of all denominations and the USSR state leadership. A statement can also be justified that seeks to arouse understanding for the negative attitude of the Catholic Church towards youth consecration: "The youth consecration practised in the USSR does not involve a secular rite of passage in the life of the adults or creation of rites in the industrial society. It rather involved a ceremony with preparation that was developed based on socialist youth education, that competes with Christian ceremonies of initiation and passage. The Catholic Church and the Protestant Church feel challenged and confronted with questions because of the youth consecration."⁷

In the past the Catholic Church has had problems with the assessment of youth consecration and its pastoral position towards this phenomenon. Its pronouncements, which are not easily accessible since they are hardly available in printed form, are to be taken into consideration in the following. The importance of youth consecration in establishing rites of the USSR socialist society are to be discussed, why the Catholic Church continues to take a negative position towards it and what connections there are with confirmation.

Concerning the Development of Rites of Passage in the Socialist Industrial Society

There is hardly any scientific study dealing with the establishment of rites in the societies of the socialist system of states. Miklos Tomka, the Hungarian Catholic sociologist of religion, offers a brief survey with a bibliography of works by Western and Eastern authors.⁸ He differentiates 13 rites of passage, greatly differing in their importance, which, however, vary in handling in the individual countries. Especially to be mentioned in this connection are the name-giving ceremony, enrolment in the Young Pioneers organization and later on in the Communist Youth Association, youth consecration, workers' consecration, the socialist marriage, entry into old-age retirement, and the socialist burial. To Tomka it is "indispensable that these new rites of passage are introduced and arranged in constant and conscious confrontation with religious tradition."⁹ With a general decline in the

use of religious rites, especially pronounced in the case of marriage, these rites, however, are not automatically replaced by the people with socialist rites. Nevertheless the latter are an adequate form for the celebration of the rites of passage for part of the population. From a sociological aspect, Tomka sees the function of Christian as well as Marxist rites as quite comparable. He said there are groups that accept the content of the rites provided by the respective institution for themselves, while others reject these contents and make use of the rites independent of the actual intention for the mastery of their private rites of passage.

Scientific study of socialist rites is at best in its infancy for the socialist ceremonies on the occasion of birth, marriage, and burial.¹⁰ It may at first be amazing that a society which has declared as its basis "scientific socialism based on objective laws," offers official socialist ceremonies for the rites of passage. But Marxism starts out from the "unity of theory and practice." Those responsible for laying the ideological foundations in the GDR are aware that the transformation of people is not only a matter of intellect, of education and school, but that the emotional sphere must be appealed to. When in 1957 the "name-giving ceremony, first called socialist name giving, the socialist marriage (also marriage consecration), the socialist burial, (burial ceremony) and the socialist workers ceremony"¹¹ were introduced in the GDR, it was stated by an authoritative source: "When we speak of atheism, we should really consider that the term 'atheist' is a purely negative term. It says we reject the ideas of divinity; but it does not positively state what we put in their place." We "believe in the development of mankind, we believe that mankind can and will perceive everything and that mankind in its development can create everything that is necessary for the development of mankind. It is this belief in mankind with which we have to replace the belief in a God."¹² The fact is repeatedly made clear even in the SED central organ that it is the aim of these ceremonies to supplant or at least to replace Christian rites for those persons who no longer are able to be part of the belief in the church: "The remnants and prejudices of the past shackle the activity of the working people. Therefore advocacy and introduction of new socialist traditions and customs that leave less and less room for religious festivals, customs, and rituals are important for the development of the communist awareness of society...."¹³

The GDR philosopher Siegfried Wollgast names the following aspects for the development of rites in socialism¹⁴: First of all what is involved is "taking over old customs and traditions in which the dialectic of form and content is to be observed. Old forms can be filled with a new content, new forms can be found for old customs and traditions." Furthermore, what is involved is the development of new customs and traditions within the framework of society as a whole, in which case links should be established to appropriate experiences of the working

class and of the progressive representatives of other classes and strata." In this connection he calls attention to the fact that the majority of the holidays in the GDR continues to have a religious basis "even though the majority of the GDR citizens is no longer religious." The developed socialist society, he said, demands such rites especially for the education of the children and the young people.

Concerning the content of these rites, an internal SED report of the late fifties from Stalinstadt, the present Eisenhuettenstadt, states: "Content of these festivities of the working people is socialist humanism, which is atheist and recognizes no higher being than humanity working and fighting for freedom, democracy, and socialism.... These ceremonies become meaningful when the special human striving coincides with the general human striving."¹⁵ Since in the transition period from capitalism to socialism agreement of personal and social interest cannot be assumed, the power of the state has the responsibility in the preparation and conducting of these ceremonies to exert a socialistically educational effect on those concerned.

Wherever these ritual expressions in the GDR were described in the West, it was regarded as a matter of course that they could be viewed only within the framework of anticlerical and areligious propaganda. According to that opinion, the striving of the GDR leadership was consistently directed towards replacing baptism, first communion, confirmation, church wedding and funeral by atheistic events. Certainly that is to be regarded as a possible aspect of viewing this development. On the other hand, the community of people with socialist-atheist ideology cannot be forbidden to take a position concerning the rites of passage by development of its own rites and to interpret them from its own convictions. For this reason it appears possible to regard youth consecration as well as other socialist rites as secular symbolic actions which orient man in decisive phases of life and are to replace the Christian rites for the GDR citizens who no longer have church ties.

In final analysis, both aspects will play a role in the development of socialist rites, as they are formulated as questions in the following: "There can be no doubt that the number of people in the GDR who are linked with faith and the church has declined since the mid-fifties on the Catholic as well as Protestant side and that a process of alienation from the church has started. Does the socialist state fill a gap here? Does it assume for the people to whom the church no longer means anything a new meaning which they--because they are human beings--need? Does out of an anthropological necessity a new set of rites arise here in which a mature unreligious world develops forms of its own for the passages of the biography into which life condenses? Or is this a plan according to which it is intended to advance not into unoccupied positions but to conquer gradually church positions, as the bishops fear?"¹⁶

Youth Consecration and Other Socialist Rites of Passage

Since its introduction in 1954, well over 6 million GDR citizens have participated in the annual youth consecration ceremonies. As early as 1960, 87.8 percent of all male and female eighth grade students, mostly 14-year-old youths, made the pledge. In 1983 there were more than 98 percent who participated in the total of 6,600 ceremonies in the villages and cities of the GDR,¹⁷ a figure which was achieved in 1986, too, with about 220,000 boys and girls. Thus youth consecration "as a general family celebration meanwhile is a firm component of social life, but also of the GDR educational and youth policy."¹⁸

Especially GDR youth policy is an important prerequisite for understanding youth consecration, which must be regarded as a virtually unavoidable prerequisite for graduation from high school and university. This is demonstrated by an answer of the public education department of the GDR State Council in response to a 1972 inquiry by the Catholic bishops concerning the conditions for admission to the expanded secondary school: "In the selection of the best...far-reaching additional avowals of the students to our socialist state and especially outstanding activities of the students play a role. Such activities also include youth consecration by which the students comprehensively prepare themselves for life as socialist citizens during youth hours and take a pledge with which they profess socialism."¹⁹ Thus whoever rejects youth consecration has only slight chances for advancement in the GDR society.

Thus the GDR citizen in case of the youth consecration is faced with a fundamentally different situation than in the case of the other secular rites of passage. While the socialist rites at birth, marriage and burial hardly cause devout Christians any crucial situations since they are of concern for non-Christians in the first place, concerning youth consecration there is practically a difficult situation since according to the will of the state and party leadership every youth is to participate in it and thus avow the socialist state. Therefore the following applies as regards the GDR rites:

"There is a real conflict situation between Christian and socialist rites only in the case of confirmation and youth consecration. In the case of baptism and the name-giving ceremony, church wedding or marriage ceremony, Christian burial or burial ceremony, the ideological competition does not possess such a stressful effect, at any rate in the normal case."²⁰

Concerning the Development of Youth Consecration

Youth consecration was introduced in 1859 by the League of Free-thinking Communities, later on by the German Association of Freethinkers and in 1934 it was also adopted by the German Religious Movement. It had

already existed in West Germany before it was introduced in the GDR. Thus a youth consecration in Hamburg took place as early as 1946. Subsequently the Association of German Freethinkers regularly conducted such ceremonies in the FRG. Hallberg tries to prove that there is definitely a line from confirmation of the Age of Enlightenment via the free-religious freethinking, proletarian, German-believing, and National Socialist youth ceremonies to the present-day youth consecration, at any rate as far as their atheist orientation is concerned and their importance to the youth in place of confirmation. However, GDR publications stress especially the tradition of communist youth consecrations of the Weimar Republic and their proletarian roots. According to these publications, it is their present task to prepare the youth for completing the victory of socialism and to live in socialism.

In the early years of the founding of the GDR there were fierce arguments as to whether or not youth consecrations were to be introduced. Public advocacy did not start until an appeal was published by the Central Committee for Youth Consecration in the GDR on 12 November 1954, whose signers also included authors such as Johannes R. Becher, Stephan Hermlin, and Anna Seghers. According to this appeal, youth consecration was supposed to become a source of strength for the further development of the youth, to prepare the youth for entry into adult life and to celebrate this step at the end of compulsory school attendance. "Thus youth consecration becomes a special holiday in every family. The importance of this day extends far beyond the circle of family."²¹

In the beginning youth consecration was a rite for a minority which soon encompassed the majority of the youths and now practically all students. Since in the meantime youth consecration has become a mass event, phenomena occur like those at least formerly connected with mass confirmation but also with the first communion. "These include inner indifference which appears to grow with the increase of the external participation. The more participation is felt to be an obligatory action and the preparatory youth hours as an appendage of school, the more persistently does the question arise for the functionaries...as to the effectiveness.... The problems facing the Western churches on the day of confirmation have been taken over in the GDR by the 'social institution of youth consecration.' From the obligatory present of an affluent society to alcoholism, from adaptation to the behavior of the majority to the inner indifference of those who merely tolerate the festivity."²² Therefore it can well be said: "The replacement of the Christian confirmation rite that has long ago become bourgeois by a socialist rite that meanwhile has turned just as bourgeois has succeeded."²³ With respect to the mass youth consecration today it is no longer possible to talk about a voluntary decision in favor of socialism by the youths in the GDR.

Concerning the Content of Youth Consecration

Youth consecration cannot be viewed merely from its ceremony but must also be seen in the context of its preparation. In this respect the GDR periodical PIONIERLEITER states: "Coordinated with all educational efforts" it "makes a specific contribution to the education of young revolutionaries: The 14-year-old boys and girls consciously prepare themselves for the new period in their lives, their inclusion in the ranks of the adults. In this connection they have numerous problems and questions such as concerning the meaning of life, their own responsibility, their rights and duties as socialist citizens. They receive logical answers to them in the youth hours."²⁴ This preparation is performed in 10 youth hours. The topics planned since 1982 to this end are: 1. Our socialist fatherland, 2. Friendship with the land of Lenin--a matter dear to the heart of our people, 3. The world changes, 4. Your labor is needed, 5. Culture and art enrich and beautify our life, 6. The one next to you, 7. We fulfill the revolutionary legacy, 8. Peace is not a gift, 9. Scientific-technical progress--a challenge to you, 10. Your rights and your duties in socialism.

In the course of three decades, this youth-hour program has undergone a development that becomes evident in the changed youth consecration books: While in the beginning it seemed to strive for clearly cognitive, predominantly atheistically oriented educational goals, it now pursues apparently predominantly emotional, moreover hardly explicitly atheistic teaching goal."²⁵ However, it must not be overlooked that this preparation is connected with the school education as a whole, which is clearly atheist.

There are regular programs for the course of the youth consecration ceremonies.²⁶ They usually take place on a weekend in May in the presence of parents, teachers, friends, and relatives. Representatives of the state and of the political mass organizations are also present. The boys and girls are led into the hall festively dressed. Poems, songs and music as well as the speech by a functionary provide the setting for the central act, the pledge of the youths.

Since the introduction of youth consecration three significantly different wordings have been used as pledge. The changes make clear how the pledge formula is guided by the respective current SED policy. Thus in 1955 reunification of Germany was named as a goal, in the 1959 formula this aim was then weakened and in the 1969 formula still valid today, this goal is no longer mentioned at all. Originally the avowal of socialism was absent; in the meantime it is being repeated several times. As foreign policy goals, initially only friendship among nations and peace were mentioned, then expressly also friendship with the Soviet people and finally with the Soviet Union, proletarian internationalism, the brotherhood with the socialist countries and defense of socialism

against imperialist attack. "The final passage of the pledge is an example to illustrate its development. If the original promise was only the support of all working people, later on the GDR working people were mentioned and finally it was stated that these working people under the leadership of the working class and its revolutionary party will establish the developed socialist society and will help the participants in this effort."²⁷

The pledge is now worded as follows:

Dear young friends!

Are you ready as young citizens of our German Democratic Republic to work and fight jointly with us, faithful to the constitution, for the great and noble cause of socialism and to uphold the honor of the revolutionary heritage of the people, if so answer:

Yes, we pledge that!

Are you ready as loyal sons and daughters of our worker and peasant state to strive for a high level of education and culture, to become masters of your field, to study unswervingly and to employ all your knowledge and skill for the implementation of our great humanist ideals, if so answer:

Yes, we pledge that!

Are you ready as worthy members of the socialist community to act always in comradely cooperation, with mutual respect and assistance and to combine your road towards personal happiness with the struggle for happiness of the people, if so answer:

Yes, we pledge that!

Are you ready as true patriots to further deepen the firm friendship with the Soviet Union, to strengthen the fraternal ties with the socialist countries, to fight in the spirit of proletarian internationalism, to protect peace, and to defend socialism against any imperialist attack, if so answer:

Yes, we pledge that!

We have heard your pledge. You have set a high and noble goal for yourselves. We welcome you solemnly into the great community of the working people which establishes the developed socialist society in the German Democratic Republic under the leadership of the working class and its revolutionary party, united in determination and action.

We confer a high responsibility on you. We are going to support you at any time in word and deed in creatively shaping the socialist future."

Negative Attitude of the Churches

Protestant and Catholic churches reacted to the introduction of youth consecration with complete rejection. "While the Protestants, however, had to seek pragmatic and theological solutions for the elimination of the attitude of confrontation between confirmation and youth consecration over the years, the Catholic Church largely remained in the position that it had formulated concerning the relationship of confirmation and youth consecration as early as 1954."²⁸ With all that the Protestant Christians seemed to be affected more strongly than the Catholic ones since the target group of the participants in youth consecration coincided with that of the candidates for confirmation. While [Catholic] confirmation in the GDR at that time in most cases took place around age 12, the candidates for [Protestant] confirmation, just as the participants in youth consecration, were 14 years old. In most cases church and secular ceremonies were only a few weeks apart. Therefore the Protestant Church stated that children who participate in youth consecration could not be confirmed.

The Catholic bishops reacted with a pastoral letter that was read at all church services on the second day of Christmas in 1954: "Youth consecration has always been a matter of those who reject the Christian faith and the Church. Their fathers in earlier times were the unbelieving freethinkers who thus wanted to offer a substitute for the Holy Sacrament of the Church and its holy ceremonies. The 'youth consecrations' now planned are completely out of the question for a Catholic Christian; they are based on a materialist ideology.... All of you must know that there can be no half-measures, 'nobody can serve two masters.' Thus you must not be deceived by seemingly neutral and harmless propaganda. The Apostle John says: 'Examine the spirits whether they are of God' (1 John 4.1).... You must be unmoved by thoughts of possible advantages or disadvantages. 'What use is it to man if he gains the entire world but loses his soul in the process?' (Mt 16.26). Moreover you are told that participation is voluntary. Nobody can force you. Therefore I admonish you very much to unequivocal firmness from the start."²⁹

On 1 February 1955 "Guidelines for the Handling of the Pastoral Tasks Arising from Youth Consecration" were issued.³⁰ It is stated therein: "Participation in youth consecration is a grave sin against the faith (first commandment) and moreover, since it takes place in public, is a great offense to the Catholic community. If this sin is not confessed, then the confession is invalid.... Children of whom the pastor knows or who can provide credible evidence that they participated in youth consecration only under severe pressure in obedience to the parents can

easily be absolved." The contents of the above were publicly announced in all church services on 6 March 1955. And on 23 October 1955 a pastoral letter stated: "The preparation for youth consecration in the youth hours is an exercise of unbelief, it violates religious feelings and is not borne by the spirit of tolerance.... Catholic parents, Catholic male and female teachers, Catholic men and women! We repeat: You cannot participate in youth consecration and its preparation. You cannot approve that Catholic children at the same time practice unbelief in youth consecration and are taught the faith in religious instruction. That is mutually exclusive."³¹

Essentially four reasons are decisive for this position of the Catholic Church. For one thing, the bishops view this new youth consecration in the tradition of its atheist predecessors³² particularly because the preparation in fact had a clearly atheist orientation in the early years. "Because of the close connection with a freethinking past it was as impossible for the Christians of the fifties to view youth consecration without value judgment as was cremation to the Christians a generation earlier."³³

However, the question is to be raised here why terms such as substitute sacrament, substitute rite or also pseudo-rite were applied to youth consecration by the Church. Thus the Church had put itself in a position from the start that no longer permitted any other classification of youth consecration than to regard it clearly as a challenge on the part of the state, in final analysis as a substitute for confirmation. At any rate it would also have been possible to refer to semi-official and official statements on the part of the state and the party which indicated that this did not involve a struggle against the Church, that youth consecration had nothing to do with religious battle.

Secondly, the designation of this ceremony as a consecration is a further reason for the rejection. Indeed it is difficult to understand why an allegedly strictly scientific materialist ideology employs a term with such religious connotations. The Church understands this term in relation to God: in baptism and confirmation man is "consecrated" to God and incorporated in the community of Jesus Christ. Thus to whom--the question was raised at that time--is the youth consecrated in youth consecration? "In the many letters which Erfurt Bishop Aufderbeck wrote to youths and their parents when they asked him in their conflict of conscience what they should do regarding youth consecration, in the many confirmation sermons that he preached that was the argument he used most frequently: 'You are Christians, you are consecrated to Christ. You need not be consecrated once again.'"³⁴

Here, too, it would have been possible on the part of the Church to interpret the term consecration differently. Thus this term exists in the temporal sphere without religious connotation. People speak of the

dedication of a house or a school, which indicates the new, the beginning, the transition from the completion of a matter to its daily use. In fact most GDR citizens are likely to have read this meaning into the term youth consecration for a long time and thus simply think of it in terms of the transition from childhood to the world of adults.

A third reason for rejection consists in the fact that youth consecration was introduced at a time when the attempt was made at all levels of society and state in the GDR to push back the influence of the churches. It is true, no struggle between church and state occurred as happened in some other communist states but the bishops could not help but view the introduction of youth consecration in connection with the attacks on religion and the Church. In addition, at the same time the other socialist rites were introduced. The discrimination against those who did not participate in youth consecration moreover was in contrast to the officially stated alleged voluntariness of the participation.

The definition of the term socialism was a fourth reason for rejection. According to an official definition, socialism was a transition stage to the communist society, which avowedly was supposed to be atheist. Thus the Church was justified in concluding: Youth consecration is an avowal of socialism, socialism is applied Marxism-Leninism and thus in final analysis an avowal of atheism.³⁵

This fundamental position of the bishops was confirmed in subsequent years, too. Thus they state in a pastoral letter for Lent in 1959: "No Catholic Christian can perform socialist name-giving, socialist marriage, socialist burial or similar anti-clerical ceremonies without denying his holy faith."³⁶

Subtly Differentiated Attitude of the Bishops

In a 1962 pastoral instruction this negative attitude was subtly differentiated by a pastoral emphasis: "The faithful are further to be admonished not to be intimidated and are to be asked to avail themselves of their rights. The merit of loyalty to the faith does not become any less by the fact that the small number becomes smaller. But to those who have succumbed to the pressure it should be expressly stated that nobody is being pushed out. Nobody is to be refused the return if he declares his readiness to change his ways."³⁷

This debate continues up to the present. "Concerning the socialist substitute rites" it is emphasized in a 4 September 1967 pastoral letter to the priests³⁸ as follows: "We must note that their ideological character and thus their atheist tendency thus far has not been retracted by any official agency.... A Christian does not participate in youth consecration because by its origin and its tendency it is and wants to be a worship substitute of un-Christian and atheist character, because it

includes atheism and because it is received by those who do not believe in God and do not belong to any church. Whoever as a Catholic Christian understands the socialist substitute rites in this sense and nonetheless voluntarily participates in them sins against the faith. He cannot receive the sacraments until he has returned to God." However for youths, the majority of whom see themselves forced to participate and who hardly interpret youth consecration in the sense mentioned by the bishops, a suitable test of their faith" is demanded in place of sanctions: "This we understand to mean signs, services and works to be established by the pastor, in which the undiminished loyalty and love for the Church is attested."

"Do we as Christians have a chance in our country? What is going to become of the Christian faith of our children and youths?" Those are the questions that are of concern to the bishops in the early eighties. In their 8 March 1981 pastoral letter on the occasion of the Easter period of penitence, which deals critically with sociopolitical questions and especially with freedom of religion and conscience in the GDR, youth consecration is once again cited as an example³⁹: "Time and again it is declared (by the state; the author) that participation in youth consecration is voluntary. But if the parents and children claim this voluntariness, they are exposed to such pressure by the school, the enterprises in which the parents work, and by the social institutions that it is no longer possible to speak of voluntariness. Atheist parents and their atheistically educated children have their obvious right to pledge themselves to an atheist way of life by the solemn pledge of the youth consecration."

The bishops thus acknowledge that youth consecration is a rite of passage that is legitimate for non-Christians, but rightly condemn any pressure that more or less forces Christians to participate. That corresponds to a quotation of Erfurt Bishop Hugo Aufderbeck: "I say that frequently in the sermons: We do not object if the atheists have their rites and their ceremonies for birth, marriage, and death. But they should not force us to adopt their rites as we also do not force them to send their children to confirmation."⁴⁰

At the same time the pastoral letter clearly indicates the more conciliatory position of the Church towards those who as Catholics nonetheless participate in youth consecration: "We know of the moral dilemma with which many of you are burdened in the case of the preparation for youth consecration. We want to bear this burden with you and to help you by this pastoral letter. But we cannot relieve you of making your own decision of conscience.... We also are aware of the distress of those who permitted their children to participate in youth consecration. We ask them to rectify their giving in by a loyal life in the faith...."

Concerning the Attitude of the Faithful

The history of youth consecration is characterized by the sorrow of many parents and children. The unequivocal attitude of the GDR bishops, who on no other topic--neither on people leaving the Church nor on the peace problem--have spoken so much and so involved as on the problem of youth consecration, involved the faithful in a considerable conflict situation: On the one hand they were exposed to the pressure by the state to participate in youth consecration, on the other hand they heard from their bishops that they would thus deny their faith. This dispute between Church and state was thus carried out on the backs of the Catholic parents and children. Some of them were psychologically shattered. The high number of people leaving the Church from the years between 1954 and 1964, it may be correctly assumed, is in direct connection with this dispute.

The relatively small group of those Catholics who within the pro-regime CDU in the GDR attempt a synthesis between SED social policy and Christian faith, considered impossible by the bishops and most faithful, see no reason for Catholics to do without youth consecration. In their periodical they comment on the attitude of the bishops as follows: "Whoever does not interpret youth consecration as an atheist rite and participates in it does not contravene his faith. And that applies to all Catholic participants in youth consecration. It is not our socialist society nor our state that makes youth consecration a problem but some Church circles. The bishops should not be surprised if they are not understood in this question by the mass of the faithful who stand with both feet on the foundation of our socialist reality."⁴¹

However, quite a few GDR Catholics ask whether youth consecration is in fact the correct arena for a conflict with the atheist-materialist social order. It is true, the youth hours have a clearly atheist orientation but the youth consecration pledge does not contain any explicit avowal of atheism. What it demands is the same thing the GDR state requires also otherwise from its citizens: approval of the integration of the GDR in the Warsaw Pact, of the socialist economic and social system and of the dependence on the Soviet Union. Thus Church criticism must equally apply to the entire educational system in which youth consecration constitutes only a part. It would be much more urgent, in the opinion of critical GDR Catholics, to say something concerning the oath of allegiance of the National People's Army which obligates the youths indeed to things that cannot be reconciled with the message of Jesus, such as the education towards hatred for the class enemy.

The perhaps most balanced comment on the problem of youth consecration can be found in a draft for the pastoral synod of the Catholic Church in the GDR⁴², which, however, was not included in the synod resolutions following objection from the bishops⁴³: "The practice of youth

consecration puts a strain on the relationship of the churches to the socialist state. Despite many changes in its dissemination and in its understanding among the people, it has remained a serious problem of conscience for the Christian, above all in relation to the honesty. The form of the pledge, the strong propaganda which the youths and parents can hardly escape, the generally prevailing fear and the occasional threat of disadvantages in occupational training do not permit such an acceptance of the youths in the world of the adults to become the very thing that it could be for society: a voluntary and sincere acceptance of social responsibility. Here applies what applies in all manifestations that do not originate in honest conviction and are not derived from their own impulse: Insincerity spoils the character of the individual and makes cooperation in society more difficult."

The fact that now nearly all Catholic youths are participating in youth consecration shows that the persuasive power of the bishops' arguments has declined. The present young generation hardly regards this rite as an express avowal of atheism and really does not participate voluntarily in it. Whoever refuses to participate now, in most cases has a different motivation: "As a Christian in a state with an ideologically different direction occasionally signs of the profession and perhaps also of demarcation must be set, if not at this point, at the end of childhood, then at another."⁴⁴

Thus "youth consecration burdened with pressure and sanctions" has "started an external adjustment process that goes hand in hand with an internal rejection. As a result a development of increasing institutionalization and empty ritualization was fostered which, following a phase of hard confrontation, has made youth consecration what it is today: A meaningless ceremony simulating an avowal of real socialism and suggesting a step into adult life...."⁴⁵ A distance away from this view, the bishops lately seem to approach this view when they acknowledge in a pastoral letter to the priests and deacons of 8 September 1986, entitled "Catholic Church in the Socialist State,"⁴⁶ a formulation thus far not used by the Catholic Church which in general appears to indicate a somewhat changed view of the bishops in the GDR⁴⁷—that at least in the present phase "it is not the struggle against religion that is the most important thing but the development of a classless society," which on the part of the state signifies the "attempt of a political integration of the churches and Christians." In youth consecration, too, the trend is evident "to interpret" it "as 'mere' pledge to the socialist state and to downplay (its) ideological dimension." However, that, the bishops stated, strengthens "the false opinion that youth consecration is a value-free civic rite without any significance for the faith." But they rightly emphasize that, on the part of the state, youth consecration continues to be part of the effort towards the creation of an atheist life style. This statement is undoubtedly correct but the question remains whether the intention which

the state links to youth consecration is also accepted or even seen by all participants, especially the Christians.

A Christian Youth Consecration?

"Youth consecration--a temporal confirmation," reads the headline of an article in a Polish periodical dealing with youth consecration in the GDR.⁴⁸ But what does this socialist rite of passage and the Christian sacrament have in common? Are there any points of comparison at all? The GDR bishops were undoubtedly of this opinion for they suggested this connection in earlier statements. The comparison in this case was seen in the fact that in both rites an avowal is made, in one case to atheism, in the other to the Christian faith.

But does confirmation involve a rite of passage as this is undoubtedly the case for youth consecration? Apparently this impression could arise. In fact, in spite of a vast literature, many questions concerning the significance of confirmation remain controversial in the present theological discussion.⁴⁹ Without being able to go into this matter in detail here, it should be noted: The view that confirmation involves a rite of passage in the real sense of the term, the entry into a new period in life, can arise only where confirmation is understood to be a sacrament of decision. In fact there used to be Catholic areas where confirmation, at least of the young, was understood to be entry into adult age, frequently documented by first-time and excessive alcohol consumption that took place on the day of the confirmation within the family, or even by more problematical temporal customs totally contrary to the religious feeling.

Protestant confirmation has given even more cause for an interpretation as a rite of passage to the adult age than has Catholic confirmation. To a large extent it was celebrated as a costly social event. Quite a few Protestant Christians in the GDR are now happy over the fact that such practices meanwhile have been shifted to the social and family ceremony of youth consecration while the confirmation has once again become for the Protestant community a church ceremony solely determined by the faith.

In the GDR, this also applies to the Catholic confirmation. Whoever participates in it, in contrast to youth consecration, views it as an act in the Christian community and as avowal of it. There are no obligatory presents or expensive family celebrations. This occurs simply at the social event of youth consecration. But merely the theological recognition that Catholic confirmation is closely connected with baptism and basically can be received at an age other than between childhood and entry into the world of adults, makes it unmistakably clear: Catholic confirmation is no youth consecration, no rite of puberty, and thus

cannot be compared with corresponding rites of passage from youth to adult age.

But there are also other considerable differences to youth consecration. In the sacrament of Catholic confirmation, the believer receives something. But in all socialist rites something is being done, a pledge is made, which logically is to be followed by fulfillment of the pledge. Thus the citizens are to be emotionally tied to the state and committed to its ideology. The individual promises society loyalty, in return society grants him protection and encourages him to become involved in favor of socialism. Quite different from the Church, promise and motivation are therefore greatly developed in youth consecration.

There are similarities in the outward course of both rites, the Christian as well as the atheist. Thus the Christian community takes a religiously retrospective view during confirmation, thanks God for acts of salvation and at the same time trustingly asks for his presence for all times. In the socialist rite, too, the view is retrospective, there is remembrance and thanks for the "wellbeing" started with the new social order. At the same time the present is viewed with the vision of the future better world. Thus party and working people are praised, the strength of unity and cohesion is commended and the hopeful certainty of the future is proclaimed and mutually confirmed.

It could be beneficial for the Church to acknowledge more clearly what happens in the socialist rites in general. In final analysis they are the manifestation of a totally secularized world without religion. In final analysis that is not something that concerns only an atheist-materialist state. What is taking place here, sooner or later will also be of concern in states of the Western world which are subject to the manifestations of a secularized industrial culture. Undoubtedly youth consecration implemented with coercive measures in the GDR is to be understood in the first place against the background of a state with an atheist ideology. But the latest pastoral letter shows that Catholic bishops in the GDR, too, see that this is a worldwide development that extends far beyond the phenomenon of Marxism-Leninism. And perhaps what has been shown here by the example of the GDR also has positive aspects: the possible thinking back of the Christian community to the essentials of its faith in a society that no longer professes Christianity.

FOOTNOTES

1. B. Hallberg, "Youth Consecration. Concerning the German Tradition of Youth Consecration." Lund 1977.
2. D. Urban/H.W. Weinzen, "Youth Without Creed? Thirty Years of Confirmation and Youth Consecration in the Other Germany, 1954-1984," Berlin 1984.

3. W. Knauff, "Catholic Church in the GDR. Communities Being Tested, 1945-1980," Mainz, 1980, especially pp 77-81.
4. A. Althammer, "Youth Consecration and Pastoral." In: INTERNATIONALE KATHOLISCHE ZEITSCHRIFT 11 (1982), pp 579-593.
5. There was a development there, too. Now still in use: Central House for GDR Cultural Work (editor), "The Door to Life is Open. Recommendations for Youth Consecration," Leipzig, (1973); probably more semiofficial: Central Committee for Youth Consecration in the GDR (editor): "Handbook for Youth Consecration," Leipzig 1974.
6. T. Mechtenberg, "The Situation of the Churches in the GDR," no place of publication, 1985, pp 42-44.
7. Althammer, op. cit. (footnote 4), p 579.
8. N. Tomka, "Les rites de passage dans les pays socialistes de l'Europe de l'Est," In: SOCIAL COMPASS 29 (1982), pp 135-142.
9. Ibid., p 138.
10. Cf. K. Richter, "Socialist Consecrations," In: DEUTSCHLAND ARCHIV 11 (1978), pp 181-189; same author: "Death Liturgy. Dealing With Death and Mourning in the burial rites of the GDR." In: H. Becker et al. (editor), "Faced With Death," St. Ottilien 1987, pp 229-259.
11. Article, "Socialist Ceremonies," In: "GDR Handbook," Vol 1, Cologne 1985, p 378.
12. H. Duncker, "To Make the Awareness of Mankind Strong and Lively." In: DEUTSCHE LEHRERZEITUNG of 21 Nov 57.
13. I.R. Rachimowa, "The 24th CPSU Congress and Some Questions of Atheist Education." In: NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, of 26 Feb 72.
14. S. Wollgast, "Remarks Concerning Manners and Customs." In: DEUTSCHE ZEITSCHRIFT FUER PHILOSOPHIE 26 (1978), pp 616-624 (p 622 f.).
15. "Fifteen Principles and Experiences in the Shaping of Socialist Festivities," File Kd 2431/58 III K, Feb 59 (duplicated). Partial reprint: U. Jeremias, "The Protestant Church in Berlin and East Germany" Witten 1959, p 41.
16. Althammer, op. cit. (footnote 4), p 585.

17. Article, "Youth Consecration." In: "GDR Handbook" Vol 1, Cologne 1985, p 6921.
18. Urban Weinzen, op. cit. (footnote 2), p 12.
19. G. Helwig, "Youth and Family in the GDR. Model and Everyday Life in Contradiction." DEUTSCHLAND ARCHIV edition, Cologne 1984, p 72.
20. R. Henkys, "God's People Under Socialism," Berlin 1983, p 48.
21. Urban/Weinzen, op. cit. (footnote 2), p 22; here also all documents.
22. G. Schmolze, "After 20 Years: Youth Consecration in the GDR." In: KIRCHE IM SOZIALISMUS, No. 3/1975, p 18.
23. Henkys, op. cit. (footnote 20), p 40.
24. No. 21/1982, p 15.
25. Urban/Weinzen, op. cit. (footnote 2), p 112; concerning youth consecration books see ibid. pp 60-97.
26. Concerning youth consecration, cf. above, footnote 5. Brochures on the arrangement of the other socialist rites are also published by the Central House for GDR Cultural Work: "Welcome Child. Recommendations for Name Giving Ceremony." 1973; "Arranging a Marriage. Material for the Arrangement of Festivals and Ceremonies," 1974; "Steps into Life. Suggestions for Celebrations in the Life of the Students," 1975; "The First Personal Identity Card is Handed Over," (1971); "At 70 With Both Feet on the Ground," (1973); "Heart of the Class. Material for the Arrangement of Events," 1976; 1976: "Everything Has Been Worthwhile. Material for Temporal Mourning Ceremonies," 1972; "The Day has Drawn to a Close. Concerning the Arrangement of Temporal Mourning Ceremonies," 1982.
27. Urban/Weinzen, op. cit. (footnote 2), pp 57-60, with the texts of the various pledge formulas.
28. Ibid., p 119.
29. Quoted according to Althammer, op. cit (footnote 4), p 583.
30. Supplement to the AMTSBLATT DES BISCHOEFLICHEN ORDINARIATES, Berlin (East), No. 38.
31. Ibid., No. 175.

32. As regard the areligious character of the "old" youth consecration, cf. F. Wartenberg, "75 Years of Youth Consecration in Hamburg," Hamburg 1965; "Proletarian Youth Consecration. Material on Carrying out Proletarian Youth Consecrations and the Preparatory Courses." Berlin 1931; cf. also Hallberg (see above, footnote 1).
33. Althammer, op. cit. (footnote 4), p 584.
34. Ibid.
35. Cf. The Bishop's Office, Erfurt (editor), "On the Assessment of Youth Consecration From a Catholic Aspect. Aids for the Information of Parents and Children concerning the Problem of Youth Consecration" of 23 May 79 (duplicated).
36. Quoted according to W. Knault, op. cit. (footnote 3), p 79 f.
37. Ibid., p 80.
38. Duplicated manuscript. Cf. in this connection also the comment of the Berlin Conference of Professors of 25 Feb 69 and the Pastoral Letter of 3 Mar 72. The contents are repeated there in each case.
39. HERDER KORRESPONDENZ 35 (1981), pp 239-242 (p 241).
40. Letter from H. Aufderbeck to author, dated 25 Jan 77.
41. "Keyword Youth Consecration. A Necessary Clarification." In: BEGEGNUNG, 12 (1973), p 6.
42. "Roman Catholic Council and Diaspora. The Resolutions of the Pastoral Synod of the Catholic Church in the GDR," Berlin 1977.
43. FK 5: "Profession and World, Item for Discussion: Use for Peace, Human Dignity, and Conciliation" of 24 Aug 74, p 6 (duplicated).
44. Althammer, op. cit. (footnote 4), p 589 f.
45. T. Mechtenberg, "Thirty Years of GDR Youth Consecration." In: INFORMATIONSDIENST DES KATHOLISCHEN ARBEITSKREISES FUER ZEITGENOESSISCHE FRAGEN, Bonn 1984, No. 127, p 24.
46. Published under the title "Between Marxist State and Christian Faith": FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE, No. 247 of 24 Oct 86, p 6 f. Cf. T. Mechtenberg, "Catholics in a Trend Change," in: KIRCHE IM SOZIALISMUS 12 (1986), pp 241-245.

47. On the development of the relationship of the Catholic Church with the state, cf. K. Richter, DEUTSCHLAND ARCHIV 14 (1981), pp 459-463; 15 (1982), pp 800-803; pp 454-458.
48. ARGUMENTY, Warsaw, of 20 Nov 83, p 13. German: INFORMATIONEN UND BERICHTS, No. 1/1984, published by Haus der Begegnung Koenigstein, pp 9-15.
49. Cf. among others, K. Richter, "Catholic Confirmation and Confirmation Pastoral" in: "Handbook of Religious Pedagogy 3," Guetersloh/Zurich 1975, pp 139-152.

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ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON SOCIAL POLICY'S PARITY, EFFECTIVENESS

Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 3-4 Jan 87 pp 1, 3-4

[Roundtable discussion among Dr Henryk Domanski, Professor Antoni Rajkiewicz, Dr Jolanta Supinska, Zofia Tarasinska and Professor Andrzej Tymowski by Barbara Drozd and Joanna Horodecka: "At the Editor's Tables — To Know Where We Are Sailing"]

[Text] What is social policy? Is our state too protective? What is the ideal model of social policy? For answers to these questions, we turned to Dr Henryk Domanski, Professor Antoni Rajkiewicz, Dr Jolanta Supinska, Zofia Tarasinska and Professor Andrzej Tymowski. ZYCIE WARSZAWY was represented by Barbara Drozd and Joanna Horodecka.

Today's discussion was general in nature and the next meeting at the editor's table will be devoted to specific problems of social policy.

[A. Rajkiewicz] In the 1970's, no one assumed that the concept of the welfare state would be revised. Now people in both the wealthy and less-wealthy countries are asking how far can the state go in its role as the guardian of its people.

Our Polish concept has a long and progressive tradition and social policy has been approached in a very broad manner to deal with more than just social issues. Social policy is a sphere of activity whose goal is social progress in the two areas of living and working conditions and social relations.

One cannot think about improving living conditions without participating in the growth processes of the country and action to satisfy people's needs. Here I would like to quote Stanislaw Rychlinski who divided social needs into the closely-connected needs for bread and dignity. When we see, as we are indeed seeing in Poland today, shortages and shortcomings in meeting the need for bread in the figurative sense, then we must work all the harder to protect and fulfill the need for dignity and therefore the people's extra-material needs.

I think that social policy's first priority is to see both types of needs. Its second priority which is quite urgent today is to protect all that we have so far attained and give our people a feeling of social security. The third

matter for social policy is to provide the public with an opportunity to participate in social changes.

[J. Supinska] Social policy must take what it sees and adapt it to the desired standards and must therefore have its own vision of a better society. It is therefore a self-appointed inspector which observes what is happening in very diverse spheres of life and snatches out the phenomena that work against the interests of individuals, families and interpersonal relations. Of course, no one would say that the sphere of everyday interests of social policy is, for example, heavy industry. However, it is sometimes the case that a decision to build a new steel works will inevitably but indirectly set back the realization of social programs a great deal and that is when persons involved with social policy must speak out. This is all the more true as social policy is not left to the sole discretion of the people involved with it because social welfare is often regarded as a disciplinary means used to encourage better work and that makes it a tool for other areas of policy.

[A. Tymowski] How can social policy change? In recent years, we have treated it like clay that can be stretched and shaped in any way we like. Meanwhile, we still have to deal with a society that has for a long time been accustomed to the existing (by which I do not necessarily mean good) model of social policy. We simply cannot change it overnight because society is used to certain benefits and institutions. That is not the wrack and ruin of a battlefield or the scene of an earthquake in which we can change everything. For 40 years, society has had certain aspirations and habits. It is one thing to write a really excellent text on social policy which describes everything as it should be but quite another to create a practical model and therefore change the status quo. Furthermore, changes can have a very broad and diverse impact on the public and lead to feelings of insecurity and dissatisfaction.

As Seneca said, only he who knows where he is sailing makes it into port. A weakness of our policy is that it is continually changing its direction and that does not give the public a very favorable impression. Someone might ask: "Where are the experts? Let us study the problem frankly". Well, the experts are all at the table but no one is listening. If the draft for a new social policy is worked out and signed by all involved in its preparation, it is later so revised and compromised that it is finally unrecognizable and its original authors no longer have any influence over its basic premises. Often, what they have proposed is something else entirely from what the public sees.

[A. Rajkiewicz] Let us look at the last two social security bills. Fortunately, they have still not been made law but have already been modified. That is harmful haste. In the creation of new laws, prudence, a knowledge of economic and social reality and the ability to see the consequences of legal decisions are all necessary. Legal norms must have some sense of permanence and the guarantee that they will be realized. Norms that cannot be implemented are asocial and quite justly arouse public suspicion and indignation. In the case of retirement regulations, we first wanted for people to retire earlier and then later used quite the opposite policy.

[Z. Tarasinska] I am only one practitioner among all of the scholars. I feel that in principle, we do not really have a program of social policy. We have

a system of uncoordinated and separate activities conducted without any sense of perspective. We introduce some benefits without considering how long they should be offered. In 1982, we introduced compensation for price increases and we will still find it hard to pay them in the year 2000. We did succeed in making them part of the social security system but still only a few people are receiving this compensation.

We therefore cannot answer the question of whom we will help with social benefits, how much and for how long. In my opinion, we should help young families above all because they earn little and have to pay for furniture, appliances and the birth of their children. The system of family allowances introduced in 1948 was aimed at solving that time's demographic problems and has now become totally obsolete. Now we should above all help the elderly and children up to the age of perhaps 7 or even longer but by no means as long as it takes them to finish higher schools because the higher schools all have systems of stipendia for young people. We do not want to take money from anyone but better manage what we have.

I agree that the system's other sin is the instability of its benefits. When child-care allowances for women were introduced, in many different regions of the country, and I know of this from my local contacts, nurseries were suddenly and unnecessarily turned into preschools. At this time, we are dropping child-care allowances because they function in an entirely fragmentary fashion and cover chiefly single women. The pressure for nurseries has been renewed and the law of the fast-fix has again taken hold.

[H. Domanski] I think that social policy should be directed not only at specific spheres of public life but also at the social structure as the ultimate system. A social policy directed at changes in this area could realize three goals. The first goal, as championed by the socialist state, is to reduce social inequality and to above all improve the material circumstances of the working class and to eliminate unfair privileges. This task should be realized along with actions to maintain the system's efficiency by means such as the stimulation of good work and I think this should be the second goal. Finally, the third goal is to satisfy the public needs as perceived and formulated by the people themselves.

The problem is that actions taken to realize these goals lead to conflicts. This is especially true between the requirement for system efficiency in the area of greater work productivity and the efforts to reduce social inequality.

Let me present an example. As the result of pay regulations introduced at the start of the 1930's, for the first time in the history of the Polish People's Republic, the wages of physical laborers exceeded those of white-collar workers. Therefore, the material inequality within the traditional class system was considerably reduced. However, at the same time, the motivation to work productively was weakened since, as general polls taken at that time showed, there was a very sharp drop in the relationship between earnings and education as an indicator of personal effort to prepare for a career.

The lack of correlation between effort and earnings also conflicts with the well-known and documented popular perception of what should be the principles

for fair pay for work. From this point of view, the positive results of reducing the inequality in wages has fallen somewhat into conflict with the third goal of social policy and that is to satisfy the social needs called for by the people themselves.

[A. Rajkiewicz] I disagree that there is a conflict between the three components of social policy. You called for the elimination of social inequality. Social policy is above all concerned with unjustifiable inequalities. And some of the programs of social policy offer some help in reducing them. At the same time, the problem of social fairness takes first place in the system of values in social policy. In other words, it tries to realize Caton's principle of "suum cuique" -- everyone receives his or her due. We are also against anything that deepens social inequality and this includes alcoholism and the abuse of professional or social position to gain goods or services.

Does social inequality hurt the system's efficiency? If these inequalities are the result of good work and high qualifications, they are completely acceptable. After all, in the [Krytyka Programu Götajskiego] which is recognized as a far-reaching program for social policy, Marx stated quite clearly that we must be able to see that one worker is lazy and another is industrious and that all are capable to different degrees.

It is only an issue of saving these two segments and tying them in with the third which is the matter of needs. These needs should be clearly categorized. Which of them should be satisfied by one's own earnings and which should be met by the state? Which needs should be fulfilled by one's place of work and which by one's place of residence?

We could make an inventory of all benefits and decide which presently give us the expected result. If they do give results, we must continue them and those that have already fulfilled their tasks can be withdrawn.

I would still like to bring up an issue that is very important in assessing the situation and that is excessively identical treatment of various social groups whose family situations are quite different. Even within the working class, there are very different subgroups. I think that really highly-skilled workers are no longer disadvantaged in terms of wages. I am much more alarmed at the complete reversal of relationships between production which can be directly used to increase productivity and budgeting which to a certain extent is the slave of budget balancing and financial policy, both of which are controlled directly by the state rather than enterprises.

[Z. Tarasinska] The myth of Poland as an excessively welfare-oriented state did not arise from the perfection of our system of benefits but from the once popular conviction that all of the difficulties in a person's life should be solved by the state and the benefits it offers. That seems to be a bad model. I think that the family and citizen must know when they can and cannot count on the help of the state.

[A. Tymowski] I do not see any discrepancy between egalitarianism and efficiency. In egalitarianism, every individual has the same chance in life.

Then, one works better, one worse, one gets an education and another shows initiative. The one that works better receives more income and lives better than the one that squanders his opportunities. The problem is that an enormous number of people in Poland are satisfied with less and do not try to achieve more. Unfortunately, the system has even turned out to be too inefficient. Going to the next matter, it seems to me that fundamental progress is always achieved in countries where mental work is properly appreciated. We can only make progress through the use of our heads...

[H. Domanski] And hands too.

[A. Tymowski] Yes, but a mistake of the hands is much less dangerous than one made by the head. A mistake made by the head multiplies itself for a long time. What we said about legislation is a classic example of bad work by the head.

I do not think that our society has been unable to respect the results of work. In some branches of industry in 1980-81, wages were much higher than in the others and no one ever questioned that. No one took issue with the wages of shipbuilders or miners. What people did object to were the fortunes and earnings gained from privileges not connected with work but with one's ties to the establishment. As General Jaruzelski once said, it would be good if we were not to forget our experiences from those times.

It does not please me that our social policy at this time so greatly depends on help for certain groups of people. We should not have a law that guarantees citizens that they will receive certain benefits under certain situations. We should not give people the things that they themselves should work for. However, I do support the introduction of certain benefits under specific conditions.

[A. Rajkiewicz] In my opinion, in the 1980's, there was a dangerous distortion of the in the public distribution of consumer funds. Monetary benefits far outweighed service and object benefits. One of the tasks for a social policy program should be to change the proportion between monetary benefits and the social infrastructure. After all, if a family can put their child in a preschool, then the mother can work and the family can under its own efforts straighten out their budget or even improve their standard of living.

[A. Tymowski] However, we must remember that society has plainly called out for an increase in monetary income and has had a great deal of faith in the building of an infrastructure which has usually turned out to be nothing more than promises. People see, for example, that they gain something from the child-care allowances and can therefore better raise their children. These allowances have now been reduced by inflation. Monetary benefits have been discontinued without any fanfare and at the same time, no infrastructure for child care outside of the home has been created. The public has the right to be sceptical about the social infrastructure because, first of all, it will take a long time to build and second, as long as it is not built, people will try to take advantage of their own position.

[Z. Tarasinska] Child-care allowances take care of the problem of nurseries but not that of preschools. The existence of preschools is closely connected with the ups and downs of female professional activation that we saw in the 1970's. After all, these were also the periods of propaganda calling for women to stay at home and take care of their children. We did not build any preschools and are feeling the effects of that today.

[H. Domanski] I would like to point out the discrepancy between Professor Tymowski's concept of egalitarianism and the principle of efficiency. Not everyone has an equal opportunity to make a lot of money. The results of the previously-mentioned studies show that people of the same level of education, profession, work experience or age but employed in different enterprises do not earn the same wages.

The source of wage inequality in this situation is the fact that these people are employed in different places and not any differences in their abilities or efforts. Such unequal opportunities are therefore the result of the properties of the economic system which has also indirectly weakened the connection between one's effort and earnings and therefore plays a demotivating role. As Professor Rajkiewicz said, these are, in a certain sense, these are inequalities not caused by individuals.

Let me say a few brief words about realization of the principles of social policy. I think that its basic fault lies in the way social policy has been made subordinate to economic policy. Giving certain economic organizations a priority on wage funds is a sign of a certain economic policy. This policy evidently conflicts with the principle of paying wages in accordance with the effort put into one's work.

[J. Supinska] I am already quite allergic to all generalizations about social equality. Do inequalities in health make anyone do anything? Does it do anything for efficiency that some people are overworked while others are idle at their jobs?

We have devoted much of our conversation to technical errors made by our social policy. We gave examples of incompetent decision-making. We said that the left hand does not know what the right hand is doing and various decisions are made too late to do any good.

[A. Tymowski] But are those technical errors?

[A. Supinska] I also have my doubts because Professor Wisniewski pointed out 10 years ago that if we had automatically adjusted retirement pay instead of making scores of increases, the differences in financial costs would be negligible. And if we were to still add the cost of making these increases...Professor Wisniewski's memorials were remembered by all but the mistakes were still made.

[A. Tymowski] The system of valuation of retirement pay and pensions is obviously more expensive than taking immediate steps. Nevertheless, we should use it and not try to save money at the expense of weak social groups that have no influence of their own.

[J. Supinska] Let me now ask if this is a mistake or conscious policy? I think that it is typical of a state social policy that the state likes to show what it is giving people and every increase in benefits is played up by the mass media and that makes it an event. At the same time, the introduction of automatic adjustments cannot be propagandized more than once and later everyone takes it for granted. Maybe it is not a mistake but an effort to maximize rather immediate and narrow political effects.

Almost everyone agrees that our social policy is unsatisfactory. They are many varied proposals for changing it. There are concepts that emphasize the improvement of the administrative apparatus. It is said that bureaucrats are not competent social workers, that the organization structures are too cumbersome and that these problems are the real key to improving our social policy.

Other concepts chiefly concern making the central decision-making process more democratic. People must have greater influence over what is done in the government because that is where the most important issues are handled. Some also feel that we must simply let people help themselves, show their own enterprise and at the same time create some real framework for self-help and personal industry. There are still others who feel that our entire future rests with good social work and with activating the local publics. What would that be called, professor? Local social positivism? Do you still believe in that?

[A. Rajkiewicz] Yes, I have more faith in the grass-roots than in the government.

[A. Supinska] Personally, I think it is naive to stake everything on one horse. We must harness all four horses because if we count on just one, we may find that our cart will not go anywhere. I would compare harnessing all four horses to the socialization of social policy because in all of these activities, we want for people to have something to say as citizens. In much the same way, it is only once a bureaucrat is well-trained that he will start to see his function as a social service but that is something that requires a little enlightenment.

The worst effects of an excessively state-sponsored model of social policy are that the state promises that it will provide many different things, orders people to line up and will not help them once they get out of line and try to do something on their own. It therefore obstructs any publicly useful initiatives and awards those people that wait their turn. People therefore pretend that they are passively awaiting their just deserts but are actually trying to get something for themselves. Enterprise has not been completely eliminated from our lives but has just taken new and pathological forms. People are fighting each other to gain access to the apparatus distributing too few goods under conditions of general shortage. The state is just an outwardly parochial institution. It promises much but gives little and its economic goals are almost most important.

How can we change that? Some feel that, aside from arousing public initiatives, this can be done through public enterprise. They say that this

would be the easiest way to start and they are certainly right. However, it will take a long time for this to take any effect if changes are not made in the apparatus itself and the entire system of representation.

[A. Tymowski] Our discussion has left out one point and that is the problem of the elderly. A policy on the elderly is a very essential part of our social policy and must be given greater consideration and priorities than before. We must remember that the elderly need their benefits today and cannot wait to get them in the future. The greatest fault in the infrastructure at this time is the lack of space in retirement homes. If we are not going to build these homes, then more and more places will be taken by old and sick people in hospitals which are more expensive to build and operate. That is social and economic nonsense.

A. Rajkiewicz: The conclusions we have reached in our conversation could be covered in 7 points. Above all, I agree with the view that it is necessary to have different "horses" or what I would call motive forces for social policy. This cart should also have a well laid-out road and a good driver.

The other issue that was very clearly underlined here is the stability of principles. That does not of course exclude the making of certain modifications but they must always follow the chosen principles. Third, social policy should not undermine the efficiency of human actions but enhance it. Fourth, difference situation in different social groups are no sin as long as they are the result of human actions and lifestyles.

Fifth, the assistance that constitutes a considerable portion of social policy should be granted selectively to consider both the rights provided by the social security system as well as people's needs. And the effectiveness of this differentiated assistance should be verified more through public participation in social policy.

Sixth, we must see the changing needs of people in different stages of their lives and even more so in the changing situations of individuals and specific social groups. And going against the mainstream of social policy, we referred to the unjustified discrepancies that are not at all the result of phases and situations but of one's association with production or budgeting. We also agreed that in many segments of the population, the growth of social infrastructure and diverse public services are much more important than increased monetary benefits.

Seventh, all enterprises in social policy should be carried out under extensive analysis of the situation, state of needs, possibilities and public moods and expectations. Every enterprise should be preceded not only by economic assessment but also by an evaluation of its other-than-material consequences.

I would also add that it is alarming to form a Janosik attitude, that is, perceiving differences while ignoring their causes. At the same time, too little attention is devoted to shaping what I most like, a Luther attitude, which is founding one's beliefs and actions on the goodness and social position of work and its results.

WARSAW PROVINCE NOTES LESS CRIME, MORE DRUG PROBLEMS

Warsaw DZIENNIK LUDOWY in Polish 4 Feb 87 p 4

[Article by [jor]: "Danger to Minors -- Decrease in Crime in the Capitol -- 300 Criminal Groups Liquidated -- Polish LSD From Mushrooms"]

[Text] Last year, there was a clear drop in crime in Warsaw Province. The number of initiated preparatory proceedings dropped by nearly 9 percent. There was also a growth in the number of persons apprehended for violations of law and especially for criminal violations. There were 25 percent fewer murders than in 1985. There were also noted fewer break-ins to state and private buildings, robberies and thefts of private property.

Despite the somewhat improved situation, Warsaw Province still leads the nation in crime and this is above all true because it is a great urban agglomeration. Last year, there were apprehended and liquidated in Warsaw Province nearly 300 dangerous criminal groups consisting of at least a few people each. There has also been a rise in the number of cases of theft and criminal mismanagement of valuable public property.

The capitol police have also not noted any success in the fight against the plague of drug addiction. The files include a list of about 3600 addicts but these are all people who have as addicts fallen into conflict with the law. Restrictions and sanctions on the cultivation of poppies have made it necessary for addicts to find new methods of producing drugs from a certain type of mushroom. This is an especially dangerous narcotic, similar in its effects to LSD. The use of such strongly toxic narcotics have caused a rise in fatalities among addicts. Last year, there were 26 such cases in Warsaw Province and in January of this year, the latest two deaths were reported. It is also worth adding that 60 percent of Warsaw's addicts are from out of town. One dangerous sign is that the age of addicts is continuing to drop and there are an increasing number of addicts as young as 12-14 years old.

A serious social problem demanding decisive action is adolescent crime and demoralization. Last year, adolescents were responsible for nearly 10 percent of all crimes, chiefly thefts and break-ins. Nearly 80 percent of thefts of private automobiles which in 1986 reached a level of 1266 cases in Warsaw Province were committed by minors.

12261

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CHILD CARE ALLOWANCE FOR PRIVATE SECTOR FARMERS

Warsaw WIES WSPOLCZESNA in Polish No 12, Dec 86 pp 141-142

[Article by Tadeusz Komorniczak: "Family Allowances For the Children of Private Farmers"]

[Excerpts] On 9 May 1986, the Council of Ministers issued a decree on family allowances for the children of private farmers. This is an important decision because this marks the first time in the history of the Polish social security system that some thought has been given to the care of all rural children. These allowances will be paid to private farmers starting on 1 July 1986 if their per capita family income does not exceed a certain figure and do not receive allowances on the basis of any other regulation (for example, for employment at a state farm).

The decision to introduce these allowances was made on the basis of the 14 December 1982 law on social security for private farmers. The law judged that the allowances will be paid from community (or town) funds for children in low-income families.

A low-income farming family is understood as meaning one whose annual per capita income does not exceed the average annual income from employment in private farming per conversion hectare. This income level will be set by 1 July each year by the minister of Labor, Wages and Social Affairs on the basis of the authority given him by the 15 November 1984 law on agricultural taxes. As of 1 July 1986 and therefore the date of introduction of these allowances, the level of income per conversion hectare will be about 55,000 zlotys per year (or within 4500 zlotys monthly per member of a farming family).

In subsequent years, this income limit will be adjusted to meet the rise in actual farm incomes.

The income of a farm family will be calculated not only according to the above-mentioned farming income but also on the basis of all other sources of income for all members of a farm family and in much the same way that child-care and convalescence allowances are set for blue-collar families. The principles used to calculate this income are presented in detail in the annex to the minister of Labor, Wages and Social Affairs' 23 January 1984 decree on family and child-care allowances (DZIENNIK USTAW, No 4, item 21).

The annual income per family member is calculated by adding together all of the income received by all members of a farmer's family that live together in the same household and then dividing that sum by the number of members of that household.

An allowance of 800 zlotys per child is granted when the per capita income of the family does not exceed 66 percent of the average yearly income, 600 zlotys per child is allotted when the per-capita income exceeds 66 percent but not more than 100 percent of the average income and no allowance is given if the per-capita family income is higher than 55,000 zlotys per year.

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